

## THE SCIENCE of AGELESS AGEING

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## Election planning in confusion

# 'Women only' Labour seats ruled illegal

By PHILIP WEBSTER, PAUL WILKINSON AND FRANCES GIBB

LABOUR'S election planning was thrown into confusion yesterday when its policy of preventing men from standing in dozens of parliamentary seats was declared illegal.

The party immediately froze the selection process in 14 constituencies, nine of which were close to making a choice from women-only shortlists. But it is almost certain to appeal against an industrial tribunal's judgment that the policy amounted to sexual discrimination.

Labour also claimed that the ruling would not affect the 34 seats where women have already been chosen to fight the next election. It is confident that the judgment cannot be retrospective, and other unsuccessful would-be candidates are thought unlikely to lodge discrimination claims.

The tribunal's decision is nevertheless an embarrassing blow to the leadership and it was greeted gleefully by the Conservatives, whose deputy chairman, Michael Trench, derided the policy as a "blatant exercise in sexism and political correctness".

Under the scheme, introduced two years ago, half the candidates in "winnable" seats and half where the MP is retiring, have to be women. Tony Blair had already made plain that the rule would apply only for the current Parliament, and many in the male-dominated Parliamentary Labour Party will privately be pleased at the ruling. But with an election possible within months, the last thing Mr Blair wants is for constituencies to be left without candidates while a legal dispute is resolved.



Peter Jenson, left, and Roger Dyas-Elliott

Yesterday's ruling is not binding on other cases, but it is regarded as a good indication of how the courts would regard the issue. Labour may now lodge an appeal to the Employment Appeal Tribunal for a definitive ruling, but it will also have to weigh up the practicalities of becoming embroiled in further legal action as the election looms.

An appeal could take anything up to 20 months — well past the latest date for an election — and although the appeal tribunal could give a binding ruling, any such decision would probably be challenged in higher courts. If an election were called in the meantime, Labour would swiftly have to impose candidates, who would be denied the advantage of getting to know the electorate.

The case had been brought by Peter Jenson, 45, and Roger Dyas-Elliott, 49, who were supported in their challenge by the Equal Opportunities Commission. They claimed that the shortlists amounted to unfair discrimination and contradicted party policy which stated that Labour aimed to "promote equality of opportunity".

After a two-day hearing last month, the tribunal chairman, John Prophet, said Labour's policy amounted to sexual discrimination, but the tribunal did not use its powers to award compensation or order any action to remedy the bias. Mr Jenson, a law lecturer who was rejected by two London constituencies, described the decision as the death knell for all-women shortlists and said that he might reapply.

But Mr Dyas-Elliott said he would not force the Keighley Labour Party in West Yorkshire to reconsider him. He would support the widow of the constituency's former MP Bob Croy, who has been selected to fight the seat. "I do not want to rock the boat, but I see this as a moral victory and I don't want any redress."

Tom Sawyer, Labour's general secretary, expressed surprise at the ruling, which he described as a setback. "We do not believe it to be correct and we have proceeded throughout in the belief we have been acting in accordance with the law," he said. "We will be urgently and seriously considering with our legal advisers the question of an appeal."

"We respect the tribunal declaration and accordingly, for the time being, we will put all outstanding all-women shortlists on hold until we have had time to consider the judgment." Other officials emphasised that suspending the selections did not imply that Labour was not committed to the principle of equality of opportunity.

Continued on page 2, col 4



Times Square, almost deserted yesterday as 22 inches of snow covered New York. The usually violent city has had no murders since Saturday

# New York muggers frozen off streets

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE weather in New York was so bad yesterday that even the muggers stayed at home. Police said that the city, which usually has three or four murders a day, had seen no homicides, stabbings or robberies since Saturday night.

Officers did venture out into the blizzard to check reports that naked people were hurling snowballs at each other. The belligerents turned out to be visitors from California, where the temperature was 89°F. Asked if the police arrested them, one officer confided: "Nah, we just watched."

The heavy snow brought good luck for some city car-buyers. As a publicity stunt, Potomac Automotive Centre promised customers they could have cars they had recently leased free if more than four inches of snow fell in Central Park yesterday. The dealer will now have to pay leases of up to \$800 (£516) a month on about 100 luxury sedans. He says he is insured.

The worst blizzard in decades dumped up to three feet of snow along the East Coast yesterday, smothering cities from Washington to Boston. With 22 inches blanketing

New York, the Big Apple was transformed into a country hamlet with no cars, no crime and residents skiing in the streets. Normally timorous neighbours exchanged greetings, and strangers strolling on Fifth Avenue swapped "high five" handshakes.

Schools closed, New York harbour turned ships away, the United Nations shut down and most of the New York commodity exchanges took the day off. The New York Stock Exchange opened for just three hours. Even the local ice-hockey team cancelled its game. Snowdrifts up to 20 feet

high and "white-out" conditions left thousands stranded at the city's three international airports, and flights from Europe were diverted to as far away as Maine. Passengers on one New York-bound train got stuck for six hours when overhead electrical cables failed.

Mayor Rudolph Giuliani declared a "snow emergency" and appealed to the city's inhabitants to stay at home. "This is a very, very dangerous situation," he said. "Everyone can look out their window and see that." The vicious Northeaster cut a

swathe through Kentucky, Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Connecticut and Massachusetts with more than 24 hours of continuous snowfall.

Fred Gadomski, a meteorologist at Penn State University, predicted that the blizzard would be the "greatest snowstorm" to hit the area since records began 125 years ago. Roads in New Jersey were closed to all but emergency vehicles, and police were authorised to impound cars that ignored the ban.

23 die, Page 8

## Lynch mob grabs jet crash crew

An angry crowd tried to lynch four Russian crew members of a cargo plane that crashed into a crowded market in Zaire, killing more than 250 people, most of them women and children.

The police saved the four from the mob and took them into custody, while fellow officers were looking for a Ukrainian and a Zairean who were also in the crew.

Jet crash, page 4

## Portillo protest

Michael Portillo has accused enemies in the Conservative Party of running a campaign against him. The assertion swiftly sparked new complaints that he had ignored the Prime Minister's weekend call for a truce in the party.

Page 2

## Internet Times

The Internet edition of The Times is now available on <http://www.the-times.co.uk>

## £14m prize is still unclaimed

By ALEXANDRA FREAN  
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

AN investigation by the National Lottery organiser has pinpointed when and where tickets were sold to the mystery winner of a third of last Saturday's record £42 million jackpot who has still not claimed their prize.

Two of the three ticket-holders known to have won £14 million each in Saturday's rollover draw have so far come forward and have asked to remain anonymous.

A spokeswoman for Camelot said that the company had ruled out the possibility that the outstanding winner might be a commercial syndicate. The company estimates that the mystery winner is losing up to £2,500 in interest every day.

Lottery award, page 3

# World leaders pay tribute after Mitterrand dies at 79

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

WORLD leaders paid tribute yesterday to Francois Mitterrand, the longest-serving French President, who has died at the age of 79.

After a long battle with prostate cancer, Mitterrand died in his sleep at 8.30am yesterday morning in the apartment adjoining his Paris office near the Eiffel Tower.

The former Socialist President, who left office in May after two seven-year terms, will be buried after a private service on Thursday at his family's tomb in Jarnac, in southwestern France. Thursday has been declared a national day of mourning, to be marked by a Mass at Notre-Dame cathedral in Paris, which world leaders are expected to attend.

Former and present heads of state, politicians of all

shades, diplomats, enemies and allies praised the statesman and intellectual who presided over France for longer than either Napoleon or Charles de Gaulle.

"He made an outstanding



Mitterrand: record term as President of France

contribution to public life." John Major said, while applauding the "exceptional courage and dignity" with which he faced his final illness.

Baroness Thatcher, who shared the world stage with Mitterrand, not always amicably, for more than a decade, said: "By his bearing and his culture, he came to symbolise something of the essential France."

President Chirac, twice defeated by Mitterrand in his bid to become leader, said: "Over 14 years, Mitterrand wrote an important page in the history of our country."

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Body and Mind, page 14

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Obituary, page 19

## Maxwell trial jury retires

By JON ASHWORTH

THE jury in the Maxwell trial spent last night in a hotel after retiring and considering its verdict for 4½ hours.

The seven women and five men have heard more than 70 witnesses in the 121-day trial of Kevin and Ian Maxwell — the sons of the late media magnate Robert Maxwell — and Larry Trachtenberg, a former adviser to the Maxwell.

Kevin Maxwell, 36, the only defendant to give evidence, denies conspiring with his father to defraud pensioners of shares worth £100 million in Scitex Corporation, an Israeli computer imaging firm. With his brother, Ian, 39, and Mr Trachtenberg, 42, he also denies conspiring to defraud pensioners of shares worth £22 million in another Israeli company, Teva Pharmaceutical Industries.

# Rottweiler Fritz lands NHS with bill of £1,700

By JEREMY LAURANCE  
HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

AN NHS trust paid £1,700 to import the family dog belonging to a consultant anaesthetist as part of a salary package to lure him from America, it was disclosed last night.

The Hartlepool and Peterlee NHS Trust paid the cost of transporting the consultant's Jeep as well as an air ticket for Fritz the rottweiler.

The deal, criticised yesterday as an

example of "the free-market NHS gone mad", highlights one example of the lengths to which trusts are now having to go in order to secure medical staff in shortage specialties.

Ian Sprout, the director of personnel for the trust, said: "We go the extra mile. The dog cost more than the anaesthetist to bring over — including £1,400 for six months in quarantine — but that is not a lot in comparison with what you would have to pay a firm of head-hunters." The anaesthetist is to

be paid a salary of £52,440.

A survey by the National Association of Health Authorities and Trusts found that anaesthetists, paediatricians and accident and emergency consultants among those in shortest supply. Chief executives are seeking consultants in South Africa, America and Germany and are offering relocation awards of up to £2,000.

The basic NHS salary for a consultant ranges from £45,000 to £55,000

without a merit award and before private earnings. However, critics fear that putting an end to the pay structure that has dominated the NHS for 50 years will increase fragmentation and raise costs.

Bob Aberley, the head of health at Unison, the NHS staffs union, said: "Whatever this individual's qualities, this is the NHS market gone mad. The solution to national shortages is to train up more people in the specialties, not to go shopping abroad."

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## Shephard sanctions more selection in state schools



By JOHN O'LEARY  
EDUCATION EDITOR

GILLIAN SHEPHARD announced a decisive shift towards selection in state schools yesterday when she proposed allowing one in seven pupils to be chosen on academic ability.

The Education and Employment Secretary issued plans to scrap regulations limiting selection to a narrow range of subjects and raise the number of places that comprehensive schools are able to reserve. Schools would be allowed to set their own tests, as well as interviewing pupils and parents. For the past three

years, state schools have been allowed to choose 10 per cent of pupils for aptitude in technology, languages, music, drama or sport without applying for a formal change of character. But ministers have until now drawn a firm distinction between specialisation and general academic selection.

With Labour also embracing specialisation, Mrs Shephard has seized the opportunity to place "clear blue water" between the parties in an area where the Opposition is thought to be vulnerable. As disclosed in *The Times* last November, she proposes to raise the limit to 15 per cent of a school's intake to be selected "in any

selection criteria. By halving the length of the circular sent to schools, Mrs Shephard said she was cutting down the "forest of regulation and rigid bureaucracy" surrounding admissions arrangements. The new guidance would cover all state schools, but would be employed mainly by the grant-maintained sector, which until now has had to apply to ministers for any change of character.

The draft circular said Mrs Shephard considered the distinction between subjects available for specialisation "somewhat artificial". She proposed to allow 15 per cent of a school's intake to be selected "in any

subject or combination of subjects, or by general ability".

Both Labour and the Liberal Democrats are strongly opposed to academic selection. Mrs Shephard was accused immediately of reducing parental choice and reviving the 11-plus by the back door.

Teacher unions were united in their opposition. David Hart, the general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said: "Permitting schools to select up to 15 per cent of pupils generally is a substantial extension of selective education by any standards. It risks harming the interests of those pupils whose parents fail to achieve their

preference by the operation of selection procedures."

Graham Lane, chairman of the education committee of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, said: "The Government is simultaneously abandoning its commitment to parental choice and further undermining the comprehensive principle that every child should have equal access to a good school within reach of their home."

Local Schools Information, a pressure group opposed to opting out, said the extension of selection could be challenged in the courts.

Leading article, page 17

## Dorrell demands fairer NHS care

Unacceptable variations in the quality of health care in different parts of the country must be dealt with, Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, said last night. Denying recent warnings that the NHS would be unable to provide universal free care, Mr Dorrell said equity was a key principle.

Highlighting variations in Caesarean rates, coronary bypass rates and grommet operations for "glue ear", he said that responsibility for challenging such variations rested firmly with health authorities and GPs.

## Lottery bribe row

Richard Branson told Peter Davis, the lottery regulator, yesterday that he would not give evidence to an independent inquiry into claims he was offered a bribe to withdraw from the contest to run the National Lottery. He said the inquiry would not "command public confidence".

Balloon race, page 9

## Police cash plea

The Chief Constable of Warwickshire, Peter Joslin, is to plead with the Home Office today for extra money to avoid further cuts in resources. Yesterday he said a £6 million pound shortfall this year had meant station closures and a recruitment freeze, adding: "We are managing on a shoestring."

## Meningitis birth

Stacy Cunliffe, aged 17, a meningitis victim was "improving" last night after undergoing a Caesarean operation to save her unborn son. Callum was delivered seven weeks prematurely and has shown no signs of the infection, said a spokeswoman at South Cleveland Hospital, Middlesbrough.

## Parrot man jailed

Alan Griffiths, a retired vet who smuggled the eggs of rare parrots into Britain from Australia, was jailed for eight months yesterday at Swansea Crown Court. Griffiths, 68, of Llanberrys, South Glamorgan, admitted conspiracy to import endangered species and was ordered to forfeit £29,000.

## Planning bonus

Oxford City Council will gain at least £2 million if it grants planning permission later this month for a £17 million leisure development near the city's railway station. The 6½-acre Opens development site is owned jointly by the Labour-controlled council and Railtrack.

## Salut! to genes

The protective effect of alcohol against heart disease depends on the genes of the drinker, French scientists have discovered. Those with the "right" genes who drank at least 50 grams of alcohol a day, equivalent to six glasses of wine, halved their risk of a heart attack.

## School bus death

A 14-year-old boy was dragged to his death under the wheels of a school bus yesterday when his bag apparently caught in the folding doors after he alighted. The accident was witnessed by the boy's mother, who was travelling behind the bus on her way to collect him.

## Tory Left plotting against me, says defiant Portillo

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL PORTILLO accused enemies in the Conservative Party of running a campaign against him yesterday. His supporters claimed there was a left-wing plot to end his leadership chances.

A day after John Major called for an end to Tory infighting, the Defence Secretary gave a radio interview from Japan in which he claimed that a campaign had been whipped up against him. He told the *Today* programme on BBC Radio 4: "That's one of the things you have to live

with in politics." Asked if he thought he was a special target, Mr Portillo replied: "Well, so it seems, but I make no complaint about that."

The assertion swiftly sparked new complaints against him that he had ignored the Prime Minister's call for a truce. Last week he irritated some ministers and MPs by attacking Emma Nicholson over her defection from the Tories. Yesterday he provoked further criticism by saying that there was no room in the Conservative Party for

MPs demanding a federal Europe.

Supporters of Mr Portillo suggested last night that the repeated sniping was part of a concerted, long-term strategy by leftwingers to discredit him and end his chances of becoming a future Tory party leader. "They have already conceded defeat and their aim is to stop Michael ever becoming leader after the election," one right-wing MP said.

Peter Temple-Morris, a leading Tory leftwinger, said Mr Portillo's claims about a campaign against him were "simplistic and only serve to reopen the argument".

Mr Portillo showed no sign of backing away from his hardline stance over Europe. Asked whether there was room in the Tory party for MPs demanding economic and monetary union, he said: "Not if they believe, of course, in a United States of Europe. That is something the Conservative Party is against."

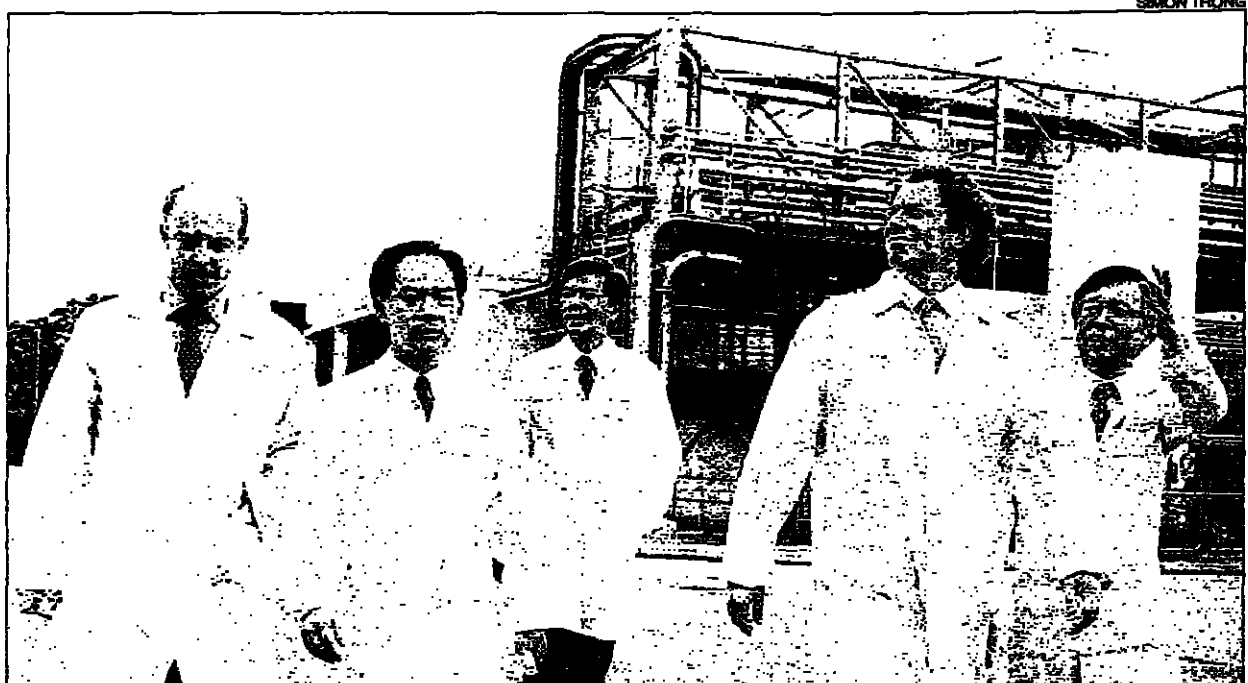
Mr Portillo also hardened his criticism of Miss Nicholson, who defected to the Liberal Democrats. In contrast to the Prime Minister's conciliatory references to Miss Nicholson on Sunday, Mr Portillo said: "The fact of the matter is that Emma Nicholson did show disloyalty to two prime ministers in a row and I said that fairly and squarely and I don't think there can be any denying that."

Meanwhile, the internal Tory struggle for supremacy over Europe continued with pro-Europeans opening up a campaign to put the case for a single currency and calling on Euro-sceptics to stop confusing voters with "Euro-pessimism and myths".

The European Movement, backed by several Tory MPs, pointed to poll evidence suggesting that more than half those questioned wanted closer co-operation between EU countries with Britain playing a leading role.

Speaking in Tokyo yesterday, Mr Portillo provoked condemnation from veterans of Japanese POW camps when he underlined the Government's support for Japan to become a permanent member of the UN Security Council and gave his personal backing for closer co-operation between the British and Japanese militaries.

Bill Holtham, chairman of the Japanese Labour Camp Survivors' Association, said the Japanese should not be considered as a permanent member of the Security Council "until they have wiped the slate clean of the terrible cruelties they inflicted on our people".



Glaxo-Wellcome's plant in Singapore which yesterday played host to the Labour leader on his private visit

## Blair promises united Britain

By PHILIP WEBSTER  
POLITICAL EDITOR

TONY BLAIR yesterday promised that a Labour government would unite the country by trying to give every citizen a sense of belonging.

Setting out his vision of a "stakeholder economy", one of the so-called big ideas which he claims will transform Britain's fortunes, Mr Blair went close to rejecting his party's traditional belief in redistributing wealth through the tax and benefits system. He also underlined that reform of the welfare system was an integral part of his plans.

But the Labour leader came under immediate attack from the Tories and Liberal Democrats. Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, said in a BBC interview: "It was an idea that we had in 1979, when we enabled people to buy shares in the privatised utilities and industries of Britain. We were opposed tooth and nail by Tony Blair at the time, so if it



With Lee Kuan Yew, who said he was impressed

is his big idea, he's just 16 years out of date." Alan Beith, deputy leader of the Liberal Democrats, said: "Tony Blair is simply borrowing a concept advocated by Liberal Democrats for years — without taking on board commitments to make it a reality."

The Labour leader was using a speech in Singapore on

the final day of his Far East tour to begin fleshing out Labour's ideas for a "one nation" society. "It is a stakeholder economy in which opportunity is available to all, advancement is by merit and from which no group or class is set apart or excluded."

He said that the old means on the Left of achieving those

aims was through redistribution in the tax and benefit regime. "But in the global economy, the old ways won't do. A life on benefit, dependent on the state, is not what most people want. They want independence, dignity, a chance to earn and get on."

Mr Blair said the stakeholding principle should also apply within firms. He said it was time to shift the emphasis away from companies being a mere vehicle for the capital market to being a community or partnership in which each employee had a stake.

He placed long-term unemployment at the top of the agenda with a pledge to bring back into mainstream society people who felt alienated. "If we fail in that, we waste talent, squander potential wealth-creating ability and deny the basis of trust upon which a cohesive society, one nation, is built," he said.

Mr Blair said that reform of the welfare system would be one of the main objectives of an incoming Labour government: it did not alleviate poverty effectively, and it did not properly assist the growth of independence, the move from benefit to work.

Lee Kuan Yew, Singapore's senior minister, said he had been impressed by Mr Blair, whom he said could turn out to be a worthy successor to Baroness Thatcher, whom Mr Lee has praised for attempting to transform the British economy.

Letters, page 17

## Labour's 'women only' rule illegal

Continued from page 1

acceptance of the ruling. The nine constituencies that were close to choosing women candidates were Gravesend, Great Yarmouth, Warrington South, Salford, Bolton West, Blackpool North, Stretford, Rochdale and Bethnal Green. Five others in the North, South Wales and Leicestershire were to start selection soon.

Leading lawyers have been

at odds about the legality of the all-women lists. The Equal Opportunities Commission obtained an opinion last year from Michael Beloff, QC, who thought it was lawful. But Lord Lester of Herne Hill, QC, another expert in the field, said it was not.

The argument hinged on whether Labour fell within the exceptions provided under the Sex Discrimination Act. These

include the internal activities of political parties unless — as the European Court of Justice recently held — the selection of candidates for a shortlist is considered to be engagement in a profession or trade.

James Goudie QC, who represented Labour at last month's hearing, had argued that MPs were neither employees, nor did they work in a profession.

## Opera House staff threaten one-day strikes

By DALY ALBERGE  
AND ALASDAIR STEVEN

STAFF at the Royal Opera House voiced a chorus of disapproval yesterday, declaring a lack of confidence in the management. Fearing up to 200 redundancies and demoralised by a pay freeze dating back to 1992, they threatened to stage a series of one-day strikes.

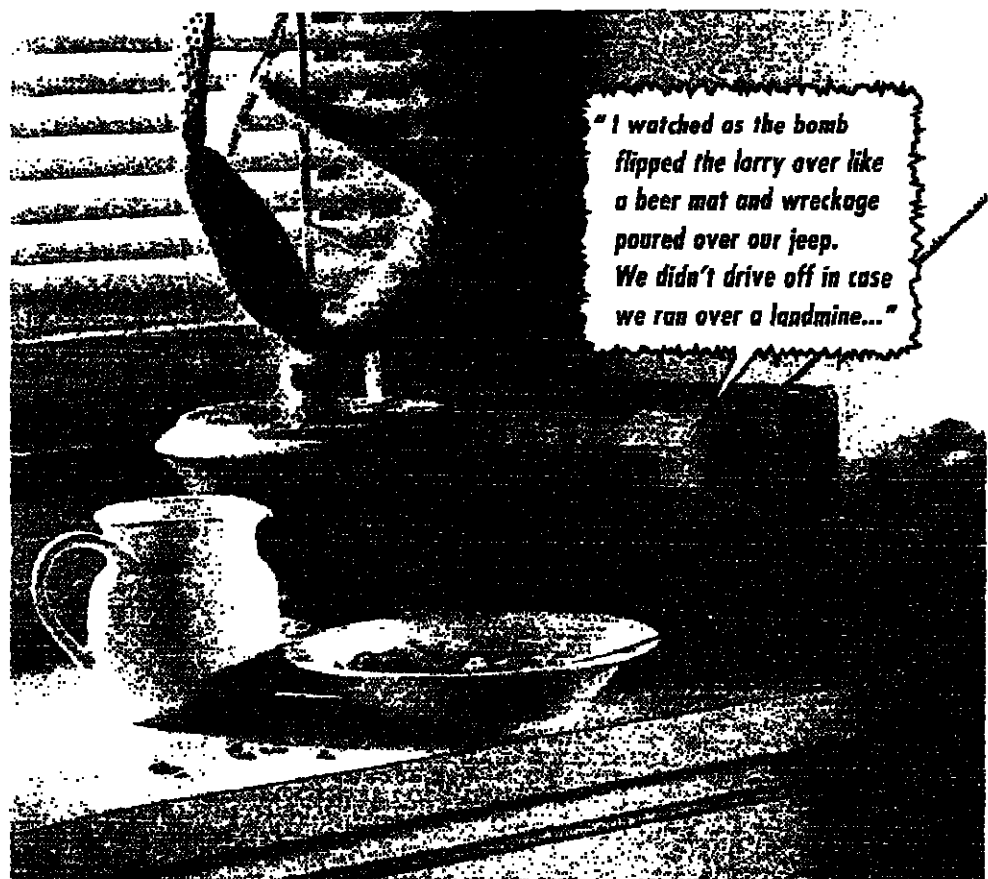
At a meeting attended by about 200

members, staff called for Jeremy Isaacs, the general director, to "be prepared to answer questions". Keith Cooper, director of corporate affairs, was unable to specify the exact number of redundancies yesterday but did not dismiss the 200 figure as too high. He blamed the decline in private funding and said: "It's very sad that we have not been able to convince a section of our staff of the enormity of the financial problems facing the house. Redundancies

are always a last resort and we will work hard to demonstrate why this regrettable step is necessary to balance the books."

The Royal Opera House was recently awarded £55 million from the National Lottery towards its £200 million redevelopment. It is cutting the number of new productions for the new season from seven to two.

Libby Purves, page 16



"I watched as the bomb flipped the lorry over like a beer mat and wreckage poured over our jeep. We didn't drive off in case we ran over a landmine..."

## THE HIT THAT STILL HAUNTS ANDY KERSHAW

Andy Kershaw, taking time off from Radio 1 to report from Rwanda. Our journalists and commentators scour the world for momentous, interesting and off-beat stories. 'From Our Own Correspondent', 11.30 Saturday and Thursday mornings.

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92-95 FM 198 LW



## Rescuers order stranded sailors to jump ship

By Peter Foster and Verma Shah

A ROYAL NAVY helicopter crew rescued five sailors from the Atlantic yesterday after ordering them to jump into the 30ft waves from the deck of their stricken ship.

The men were on the 4,000-tonne Romanian cargo vessel *Cosmos*, which was adrift in force 9 gales 300 miles south-west of Cape Finisterre on the Spanish coast. They had remained on board after the captain ordered 17 other crewmen to abandon ship in two lifeboats.

A Lynx helicopter from HMS *Northumberland* found the ship pitching too violently to risk trying to winch the men from the deck in lashing rain and winds of almost 40 knots. Instead the Navy crew dropped survival suits and lifejackets on to the quarter-deck. The five were winched from the sea after donning the suits and jumping overboard.

Commander Steve Bramley, captain of *Northumberland*, which was on her way to the South Atlantic, said the five men were cold and tired but picked up the other 17 crew. Last night a Spanish tug was expected to take the *Cosmos* in tow.

In Scotland a passenger ferry bound for Aberdeen from the Faroe Islands steamed into Invergordon harbour on the Cronaroy Firth a day and a half late after being delayed by storms and turned away by harbour masters at Aberdeen. The 4,269-tonne *Smyril* normally makes the 400-mile trip in 22 hours but when she docked at 9.30pm on Sunday she had been at sea for more than two and a half days.

Most of the 52 people on board were students returning to resume their studies in Scotland. Regin Hammer, 22, of Robert Gordon's University in Aberdeen, said: "Our troubles started as we left the islands. We were sailing into the teeth of a force 9 gale the whole way. The crew had to lash the chairs together to stop them being thrown round the saloon."

Solus Poulson, the Faroe Islands Commercial Attaché in Scotland, said: "It was an experience for the passengers, but the ship performed very well in atrocious conditions."

In Cornwall a chain ferry that carries cars and pedestrians across the River Fal to the Roseland peninsula broke down in mid-stream after high winds caused the chain to jam. Engineers worked for two hours to free the ferry, which was carrying eight cars, the pilot and the ticket collector.

## Manageress fights for job after violence at club's prizegiving

# Champion woman golfer punched man off bar stool

By Andrew Pierce

A CHAMPION woman golfer punched a six-foot businessman from his bar stool at the club where she worked after claiming that he had stroked her thigh, an industrial tribunal was told yesterday.

Philomena Vaughan, 42, a Welsh champion, was at a prizegiving ceremony at the course where she was shop manageress when she suddenly shouted: "Don't touch me," and delivered two right hooks, knocking John Price to the floor in the crowded bar of the £50-a-year Dewinstow Golf Club at Caerwent, Gwent.

Mrs Vaughan, 42, who was a Welsh gold medal winner and a county player, had been three-times club champion and had a handicap of 14. She was stripped of her titles after an internal inquiry and sacked from her salaried post two months later. The 5ft 6in mother of four claimed that Mr Price slid his hand beneath her long waistcoat and caressed her thigh as she walked past him after receiving her awards.

A club inquiry rejected her claim of sexual harassment and concluded that the county golfer, who had collected several trophies at the ceremony, was "the worse for wear" and had misinterpreted the incident. Mrs Vaughan, but not Mr Price, was suspended. Mrs Vaughan, who is being backed by the Equal Opportunities Commission, is claiming un-

fair dismissal and sexual discrimination. Mr Price, who was accompanied to the club where she worked after allegedly assaulting Mrs Vaughan, whose husband Peter was also present. He said that he had tried to remove a cigarette which was attached to the bottom of her cardigan.

Details of the flare-up spread like wildfire around the club. Mr Price, aghast at the rumours, demanded an internal investigation to try to clear his name. Mr Price's wife Pamela, another club member, told the hearing: "Mrs Vaughan had won quite a few trophies. I asked her if she was sober and she replied, 'No - I'm celebrating'. She walked to the bar and I saw my husband just before he hit the floor. He was very shaken. It's not the sort of thing you expect at our golf club."

After the club investigation Mrs Vaughan of Rogiet, near Newport, was asked to resign as ladies' secretary, social treasurer and county delegate. She stayed on as full-time manageress at the club shop but was sacked two months later. The tribunal heard that she called the ladies' captain an "old bitch" and officials "old sods".

Philip Marshall, counsel for the club, said: "She claims Mr Price slid his hand underneath her waistcoat. Words were exchanged and he put his

hand towards her. She struck him on the chin. He says he was brushing a cigarette end off her cardigan and she misinterpreted his action, striking him twice. He ended up on the floor. Within 24 hours reports of the incident were circulating around the golf club. Mr Price became very concerned at the slanderous reports and complained to officials."

Mr Marshall said she launched a "trade of abuse" against Elwyn Harris, the club committee chairman. "She made insolent, derogatory and taunting remarks. She said the ladies captain was an old bitch. She called them old sods and said she would fight them all the way. Then she invited them to sack her," he said.

Mr Price said: "I was only trying to help her. She hit me on the arm and then in the throat. It was all over in a millisecond and I ended up on the floor. I complained after receiving reports of various accusations against me including one from a customer who had heard I had been touching someone up."

Cllwr Lewis, representing Mrs Vaughan, said the club had discriminated by handling the two complaints in different ways. The club denies unfair dismissal and sex discrimination. The hearing, which is expected to last for three days, continues.



Philomena Vaughan: stripped of her titles after being "the worse for wear"

## Lottery cash for charity with link to riots

By Richard Ford  
HOME CORRESPONDENT

ONE of the organisers of the protest that degenerated into the Brixton riot last month has been employed by a charity that was awarded more than £200,000 of National Lottery money. Lee Jasper started work yesterday as temporary co-ordinator of the 1990 Trust, which has been given the cash to set up a "black information link".

The initiative is for an online database at community centres across the country to provide information to the black and Asian communities on race, housing, employment, local authorities and Westminster. The National Lottery Board said the 1990 Trust met the criteria for being awarded cash to relieve poverty.

Mr Jasper, until recently a trustee of the charity, is a key figure in the National Black Caucus, which organised the protest in Brixton over the death in police custody of Wayne Douglas.

Mr Jasper, 37, a father of five, was one of several people who spoke at the protest before rioting broke out on the streets, causing £1 million of damage to commercial premises. He said that the 1990 Trust provided material, including research documents, to support the National Black Caucus.

"The trust has a credible record in the field of the voluntary sector," he said. "It has proved itself and it is well-respected by funders and has received grants from many funders."

"The organisation has met the Home Secretary, government departments and the Association of Chief Police Officers. In fact the trust is meeting Sir Paul Condon on Thursday to discuss policing in London."

He denied having incited the riots with his speech. "I said that as an organiser of the caucus I was exhausted with looking into the eyes of grieving mothers whose children have died and I urged people to get involved and join organisations to ensure that these things don't happen again."

Although people would like to portray the organisation as having instigated disturbances, our track record stands scrutiny with the best." The National Lottery Board said the trust had provided paperwork supporting its application which made clear its links with the National Black Caucus.

The 1990 Trust has received backing from charities including £104,000 from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust.

## Thompson describes years of marriage break-up

By Andrew Pierce



Branagh and Thompson sharing success in 1993, when their marriage had already begun to founder

EMMA THOMPSON, speaking for the first time about her separation from Kenneth Branagh, has disclosed that their marriage began to founder more than three years before the break-up was announced in October.

Problems arose before rumours began about Mr Branagh's friendship with Helena Bonham Carter, whom he met in 1993 on the set of *Mary Shelley's Frankenstein*. "Our separation had nothing to do with anyone else," Miss Thompson, 36, said in an interview in *Vanity Fair*.

The difficulties began about the time that Miss Thompson won an Oscar for her role in *Howards End*, effectively eclipsing Mr Branagh's assault on Hollywood. He had been regarded as the brighter prospect of the two and wrote his autobiography when he was 28.

"I committed every molecule to my marriage, so relinquishing it has been very hard. It's been like breaking your fingers as you let go," she said. Despite the sorrow they remained close friends.

"Ken will always be family. That is a given."

She said: "Certainly it was like sitting on a time bomb... if you like, the pain sort of started such a long time ago. Three years. I know I am steering into a calmer place. Despite the pain, one comes through it. Marriages stop. Marriages change. People are always saying a marriage 'failed'. It's such a negative way of putting it."

The actress insisted she felt no sense of failure. Her estranged husband agreed. He told the magazine: "Not even a grain of failure in any sense could be attributed to Emma in any of this. She has been absolutely magnificent throughout."

The couple, who married in 1989, enjoyed critical acclaim for *Much Ado About Nothing* in 1993. Miss Thompson was nominated for another academy award for *The Remains of the Day* in 1993 and shortlisted the following year for *In the Name of the Father*.

She expressed no regrets at the fact the couple have no children. "I have no feelings of that sort. I would have thought one is more likely to maintain a

decent relationship if one does not have something that forces you into it."

The actress declined to discuss Mr Branagh's friendship with Miss Bonham Carter or her own reported liaison with Greg Wise, who stars with her in *Sense and Sensibility*, her adaptation of Jane Austen's novel that has won two awards and five Golden Globe nominations. Asked if she had an affair with Mr Wise, she replied: "That's a separate issue. It involves a third party who is not here and cannot speak for himself."

Miss Thompson appears on the magazine cover dressed as Henry V, a role her husband played in 1989. Other photographs show her semi-naked. Asked if she thought she was sexy, she said: "In private, yes. I think of myself as sexual in a human way, but not as a kind of a bombshell. I tend to represent ordinary women."

Miss Thompson, who has a home in Hampstead, north London, has no plans to leave Britain for the United States. "I am sure I could. But I do love England. I love the people. Even if they are not friendly, at least they are funny."

## Monk denies sex assault on boys

By Adrian Lee

A MONK sexually abused six boys while he was a headmaster, a court was told yesterday. John Dyer, 55, known as Brother Cyril, was head of St John's College, in Southsea, Hampshire, for ten years.

At Winchester Crown Court, Mr Dyer, of the Roman Catholic order of De La Salle, denied eight charges of indecently assaulting the six pupils between 1985 and 1994.

Tim Compton, for the prosecution, alleged most of the assaults by Dyer took place in dormitories. Some of the boys, all aged under 16 when the alleged attacks took place, will give evidence by television link.

Mr Compton said that during one assault Dyer called himself "the lesser spotted phantasm bottom biter". One schoolboy was assaulted after a cricket match, it was alleged.

Mr Compton said: "The defendant assaulted and touched these boys quite deliberately in circumstances

which were inherently indecent."

Dyer, now of Bidford-on-Avon, Warwickshire, joined St John's College in 1975, becoming head nine years later. He was arrested in September 1994.

The jury was told that one schoolboy, who claimed he was assaulted several times, tried to telephone the charity ChildLine ten times but was greeted each time by a recorded message saying all lines were busy. In a video-recorded interview the same boy said Mr Dyer would come to his room after lights out, kneel by his bed and sexually assault him. Afterwards Mr Dyer would allegedly say "God bless you" before leaving the room.

The school has 700 day pupils and 114 boarders. Fees are £2,180 a term for boarders.

Mr Dyer also denies an alternative charge of indecency with a child. The trial continues.

## Hi-tech fraudster bribed bank staff

By Tim Jones

A FORMER businessman who lived like a millionaire after bribing young bank employees to reveal customers' details was yesterday jailed for five years.

Michael Boparan chose teenagers who worked at National Westminster Bank's card transaction headquarters for his £1.3 million fraud. Southwark Crown Court was told, offering £100 a time for computer print-outs.

Working with Russell Jones, 27, who had a reputation for violence, he obtained details of gold and platinum card holders which were then encoded on to forged bank cards.

Police solved the case after a beat constable noticed that a car parked outside Boparan's home had an out-of-date tax disc. Inside, officers discovered dozens of fake credit cards and a laptop computer bearing Boparan's fingerprints.

But while Boparan, 30, lived in style at his home in St

John's Wood, north London, the young bank staff he and others recruited scarcely benefited. Although the operation was profitable, it was possible without them the court was told that three former employees, Karen Baigent, 21, and Deborah Hill, 19, both of Southend, and Paul Deacon, 20, of Canvey Island, between them netted about £3,000.

The two women were ordered to perform 240 hours' community service and Deacon was sentenced to three months' youth detention. Karine Evans, 22, of Southend, who, with the other three, pleaded guilty to charges of conspiracy, will be dealt with later.

Jones, of Southend, was found guilty of conspiracy to defraud banks and will be sentenced later before being tried on other serious charges. Bulent Osman, 30, of Keston, southeast London, was acquitted of one charge of conspiracy to defraud.

## Turkish protesters hold three hostage

By Richard Duce

AN INSURANCE man was being held hostage in north London last night after becoming swept up in a protest over alleged civil rights abuses in Turkey.

Joe Postlethwaite was making routine calls when he was stopped at the Turkish and English Chamber of Commerce in Islington. Minutes later the building was stormed by up to 50 protesters who barricaded themselves into two rooms. Mr Postlethwaite, who works for Norwich Union, was held hostage from 11.30am with two female members of staff, Salmaz Altan, the administrator,

and Leah Barber, 20, a secretary. Police cordoned off the street as negotiators tried to end the siege. The stand-off continued last night but none of the protesters was thought to be armed.

The demonstrators, calling themselves the Solidarity Committee for Political Prisoners in Turkey, were holed up inside the building, close to the Barbican Centre, while a smaller group of about 20 people held a demonstration outside.

In a telephone interview from inside the building a spokesman for the group said it was a peaceful protest and there was no intention of harming the three people held inside. He said the protest

was about the death of political prisoners in an Istanbul jail last weekend.

The protesters demanded media publicity about their demonstration and that Amnesty International should investigate the prison deaths. Mrs Altan, who was allowed to speak on the telephone, said: "I am at a loss to understand what they hope to achieve. We are not a Turkish government-sponsored organisation. We promote trade between Turkey and England."

Mr Postlethwaite was allowed to telephone his company to say he was "unavoidably detained" and to reassure his family.

## Lloyds Bank Interest Rates for Personal Customers

### SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

Investment Account	Annual Option		Monthly Option		High Interest Cheque Account	Gross %		Net %
	Gross %	Net %	Gross %	Net %				
£100,000+	5.65	4.24	5.51	4.13	£50,000+	3.00	2.25	
£ 50,000+	5.45	4.09	5.32	3.99	£25,000+	2.85	2.14	
£ 25,000+	5.25	3.94	5.13	3.85	£10,000+	2.75	2.06	
£ 10,000+	5.00	3.75	4.89	3.67	£ 5,000+	1.75	1.31	
Below £10,000	0.50	0.38	0.50	0.38	Below £5,000	1.00	0.75	

30 Day Savings	Annual Option		Monthly Option		Treasurers Account	Gross %		Net %
	Gross %	Net %	Gross %	Net %				
£25,000+	4.10	3.08	4.02	3.02	£25,000+	3.75	2.81	
£10,000+	3.90	2.93	3.83	2.87	£10,000+	3.55	2.66	
£ 5,000+	3.70	2.78	3.64	2.73	£ 5,000+	3.10	2.33	
Below £5,000	0.50	0.38	0.50	0.38	Below £500	2.90	2.18	

Instant Savings Account	Annual Option		Monthly Option		Headway and Young Savers	Gross %		Net %
	Gross %	Net %	Gross %	Net %				
£25,000+	4.00	3.00	3.93	2.95	£500+	2.90	2.14	
£10,000+	3.75	2.81	3.69	2.77	£250+	2.75	2.06	
£ 5,000+	3.25	2.44	3.20	2.40	£100+	2.50	1.88	
£ 500+	2.90	2.18	2.86	2.15	£ 50+	2.00	1.50	
Below £500	1.00	0.75	1.00	0.75	Below £50	1.00	0.75	

Asset Management Service Investment Account	Annual Option		Monthly Option		Taxes	Gross %		Net %
	Gross %	Net %	Gross %	Net %				
£100,000+	5.51	4.13			6.75% Tax-Free			
£ 50,000+	5.32	3.99						
£ 25,000+	5.13	3.85						
£ 10,000+	4.89	3.67						
Below £10,000	2.86	2.15						

Interest rates may vary from time to time. This table lists current rates.  
GROSS - The annual interest rate before deduction of basic rate income tax (where applicable).  
NET - The annual interest rate after deduction of basic rate income tax (where applicable).  
TAX-FREE - The annual interest rate when interest is exempt from income tax.  
Interest is normally paid at the net rate, unless the Account falls within an exempt category or the Account-holder qualifies to receive interest gross.

These rates of interest apply with effect from 9 January 1996

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Lighthouse keeper tells inquiry he knew aircraft was heading for disaster

# Silence fell after RAF helicopter hit foggy hillside 'with a dull thud'

By Gillian Bowditch  
SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

A LIGHTHOUSE keeper described yesterday listening helplessly as an RAF Chinook helicopter carrying 25 of Ulster's most senior anti-terrorist experts and four crew members crashed into a Scottish hillside in dense fog, killing all on board instantly.

David Murchie, 56, who mans the lighthouse near Southend on the Mull of Kintyre and is a helicopter enthusiast, knew the aircraft was going to crash before it hit the hill. The former policeman told a Fatal Accident Inquiry at Paisley that he became "very concerned" that the helicopter would not clear the high ground behind the lighthouse.

Mr Murchie, who has taken flying lessons and helped to build a helicopter, told the inquiry he was on duty in the lighthouse at 5.55pm on June 2, 1994, when he heard a Chinook approaching. He identified the helicopter by the sound of its twin rotor blades and assumed it was heading for the helipad beside the lighthouse.

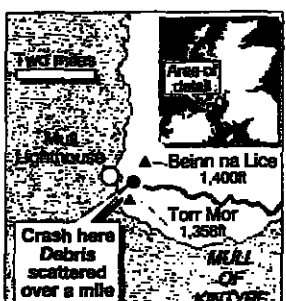
Mr Murchie said the area was covered by dense fog and the lighthouse fog alarm was sounding. Visibility was about 20 metres and at no time did he see the helicopter. Initially, Mr Murchie was concerned that the aircraft might not see two pylons close to the landing pad and he ran outside.

He soon realised from the sound of the helicopter that it was not slowing down to land but was carrying on "at cruising speed". He added: "I formed the opinion that he wasn't flying at very high altitude. I became very concerned at this time."

Within seconds, Mr Murchie heard a "dull thud, fol-



Murchie: he heard no change in engine note



Crash here. Debris scattered over a mile

Map of the Mull of Kintyre

Map of the Mull of Kintyre

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Map of the Mull of Kintyre

Special Branch, nine Army intelligence officers, six MI5 officers and four RAF crew.

The inquiry before Sheriff Sir Stephen Young, which is expected to last a month, has been welcomed by the relatives of the two pilots who were in charge of the aircraft when it crashed.

Flight-Lieutenant Jonathan Tapper, 28, and his co-pilot Flight-Lieutenant Richard Cook, 30, have already been found guilty of gross negligence by the RAF after a board of inquiry. The families of the two men are optimistic that the Paisley inquiry will clear their names.

Mr Murchie told the inquiry that on his way to the crash site he met the assistant lighthouse keeper, Hector Lamont, returning from a shopping trip in the lighthouse Land Rover.

Mr Lamont said that as they were driving back to the lighthouse and heard the helicopter, his wife said she was concerned it might crash. He had told her it would be flying above the fog. As they arrived at the lighthouse Mr Murchie told them the aircraft had crashed.

The two men drove to the scene and discovered wreckage blocking the road and the hillside on fire. Dense smoke coupled with fog made visibility very poor but Mr Murchie found a number of bodies and checked for signs of life. All were dead.

Mr Murchie told the inquiry that at no time as he listened to the helicopter approach was there a change in the engine sound. Questioned by John Mitchell, for the Crown, he said he did not believe it had slowed down or accelerated. The noise of the helicopter blades was louder than the noise of the engine.

Dr Mhairi Cassidy, a consultant pathologist at Glas-



Wreckage of the RAF Chinook lies in the foreground after crashing into high ground behind the lighthouse

gow University, told the hearing that her post-mortem report on Flight-Lieutenant Tapper showed no signs of heart attack or any other natural disease that could have caused him to lose control of the aircraft, nor was he under the influence of drink or drugs. A toxicology report on his body was negative. He had died from massive head injuries due to an aircraft accident.

Post-mortem evidence on all the dead had shown that they

died instantly of multiple injuries consistent with a crash.

The inquiry also heard from Sinead Swift, 27, an air traffic controller working in Belfast. She confirmed that the helicopter had taken off normally on the day it crashed and was flying on "visual flight rules" rather than "instrument flight rules".

This means that once the helicopter had moved out of controlled air space it had no obligation to stay in touch

with air traffic control. It made its last routine contact with Mrs Swift at 17.47, less than 15 minutes before it crashed.

The Chinook did not carry a black box flight recorder. Lawyers for the pilot's families told a preliminary hearing in Paisley last month that they would present evidence which showed that another RAF Chinook had developed engine and computer problems while being tested.

The inquiry continues.

## Drought move 'is threat to wetlands wildlife'

By Michael Hornsby  
COUNTRYSIDE CORRESPONDENT

WILDLIFE on one of Europe's most important wetlands is threatened by plans to top up depleted reservoirs in Yorkshire by drawing more water from the River Derwent, conservationists say.

Yorkshire Water has applied to the Department of the Environment for permission to take up to 360,000 cubic metres a day from two pumping stations on the lower Derwent, 55,000 more than the maximum allowed now.

Blaming the summer drought and poor rainfall this winter, Yorkshire Water says its reservoirs are only 24 per cent full at a time when they should be above 90 per cent.

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds said yesterday that taking more water would have a devastating impact on 2,000 acres of flood meadows in the lower Derwent valley, which provide a winter home for thousands of waterfowl and a breeding ground for many other birds.

Barbara Young, the RSPB's chief executive, said: "It is extraordinary that Yorkshire Water should apply for this drought order knowing the importance of the site. The lower Derwent valley must not be sacrificed for a quick-fix solution."

A Yorkshire Water spokesman said: "We have taken our own environmental advice and been assured that our plans would have a minimal effect on flood levels."

The tourist's first view of Snowdon could soon be obstructed by windmills, protesters claim. Plans to put up 87 windmill turbines on the Denbigh Moors, a popular route to Snowdonia, are to be submitted to Colwyn Bay Borough Council by Manweb Generation Holdings.

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## Wartime weapons were dumped short of deep undersea trench

By Nick Nuttall  
ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

HUNDREDS of thousands of tonnes of wartime munitions were dumped off Scotland short of a deep underwater trench, their intended disposal site, scientists said yesterday.

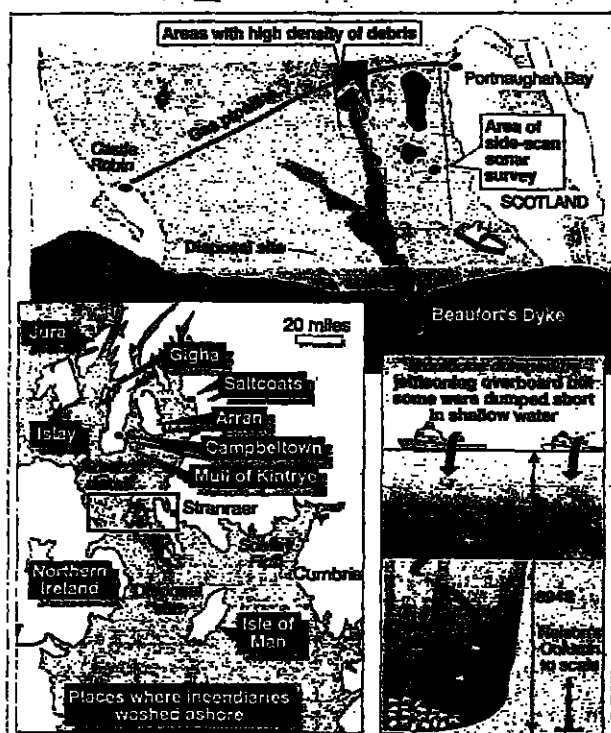
Surveys around Beaufort's Dyke, used as a military dump since at least 1945, confirm claims that huge quantities of weapons, including rockets containing poisonous gas and grenades, are littering the seabed off the west coast.

Derek Seward of the marine laboratory in Aberdeen, which carried out the survey, said yesterday: "We have found definite evidence of dumping outside Beaufort's Dyke. The trench is 900m deep, 30 miles long and 3 miles wide."

The survey was ordered by the Scottish Office after about 4,000 phosphorus-based incendiary bombs were washed ashore last year along the west coast, including on Mull and Arran. Environmentalists and Labour MPs claimed the bombs were dislodged by British Gas engineers laying a pipeline between Northern Ireland and Scotland.

In September, a four-year-old boy from Campbeltown on Kintyre suffered burns to his hand and leg after a phosphorus bomb he picked up on the beach ignited. However, the 20-page report published yesterday concluded that there is no risk to the public or marine life.

The scientists said that concentrations of heavy metals linked with munitions, such as arsenic and cadmium, measured in fish from around



the trench were no higher than those found in commercial catches across the North and Irish seas.

The Earl of Lindsay, a Scottish Office Minister, said yesterday that more research was needed to link the emergence of the incendiaries with the pipeline, which was routed just north of the dump site on government advice. However, he added: "We will have to await the results of the full study for conclusive evidence, but in all probability we acknowledge there could be a link between the two."

Dr Seward said there were also plans to lay an electricity cable between Scotland and

Northern Ireland and interest in gas drilling in the area. There was also the risk of fishermen trawling up old weapons in their nets.

George Foulkes, the Labour MP for Carrick, Cumnock and Doon, who has highlighted concern about the dumping, called for far more extensive searches. There have been suggestions that short dumping took place in the Solway Firth as ships bringing the munitions came from both Stranraer and Cumbria.

Richard Dixon of Friends of the Earth Scotland said they were also far from satisfied that marine life was safe. He said there were fears that

some of the munitions, which were dumped at the site until 1976, might have contained chemical and biological weapons such as sarin.

It is claimed that up to 2,517 tonnes of concrete owned by the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority was also dumped at Beaufort's Dyke in 1980. Environmentalists fear it could be radioactive, although this is denied by the authority.

The laboratory's report says: "The side scan-sonar and underwater television surveys confirmed that medium to high densities of dumped materials were present on the seabed in areas to the north, northeast and east of the chartered explosives disposal site. These include areas immediately to the north and south of the undersea gas pipeline." Munitions were seen in boxes, in open crates, or lying loose on the seabed.

Dr Seward said the Ministry of Defence, which up to recently had maintained that all post Second World War munitions had been dumped within the site, were studying underwater television images taken during the survey.

It hoped to identify the exact type of munitions lying outside the 250-metre deep trench, allowing the marine laboratory scientists to assess the risk. The work might conclude that it was safer to leave the weapons where they were or that some of the devices found were too dangerous to leave on the seabed and might need to be removed.

The laboratory scientists also plan to carry out a further survey in April to see whether munitions were dumped closer to shore.

## Crates and canisters held 1m tonnes

By Nick Nuttall

THE type and quantity of weapons strewn in and around Beaufort's Dyke is unknown but the haul is believed to include British, American and German Second World War munitions.

The Ministry of Defence claims the site, one of several underwater ones used by the military, could have been used in the 1920s but has no record of what was dumped. Officially the MoD

claims that something over a million tonnes of Army and RAF munitions were jettisoned into Beaufort's Dyke off boats in crates and canisters. These include 14,600 tonnes of 5in rockets containing poisonous phosphene, fuses, grenades, artillery shells, mortar bombs, incendiaries and cluster bombs.

But critics claim there could also be chemical and biological weapons which might be released when metal canisters corrode. That claim has been strengthened

by yesterday's report. The ministry had, until the surveys were carried out, insisted that all their records showed the munitions had been seen jettisoned at the dyke. These claims have been shown to be untrue.

The last of the RAF wartime munitions were dumped in 1957 but the Army carried on dumping 3,000 tonnes a year. Britain signed international sea dumping conventions and the last emergency dump of small munitions was in 1976.



# Woman killed as she pushes sons from path of car

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Bradford traffic officer shot □ WPC stabbed in face □ vice-squad officer beaten up by five youths

# Police chief condemns 'low life' in violent weekend



Dalby: expects to be in hospital for two weeks

By PAUL WILKINSON

A POLICE chief condemned the "degradation" in society and "unspeakable" criminals yesterday after a weekend that left two of his officers with stab and shotgun wounds and a third recovering from a vicious assault.

Keith Hellawell, Chief Constable of West Yorkshire, said beat officers were the "heroes of the end of the 20th century" because of the bravery they showed in dealing with violent criminals.

He was speaking after PC Neil Dalby, 36, was shot in the leg shortly before midnight on Sunday by a man fleeing an armed robbery in Bradford.

On Saturday another Bradford

officer, WPC Lisa Sharpe, was stabbed in the face when she tackled a man who was threatening a woman with a knife. WPC Sharpe needed six stitches to her cheek after the attack. A man was remanded in custody by magistrates yesterday in connection with the incident. On Sunday, Sergeant Peter Corkindale, a vice-squad officer, had stitches in his mouth after being assaulted by five youths while he was making inquiries in the city.

PC Dalby, a traffic officer, was shot as he chased four men who had abandoned a stolen car after crashing it in the Odsall district of Bradford. He and a colleague, who had been on routine police duty and who followed the vehicle when

they saw it travelling erratically at high speed, were unaware that the men inside had just carried out an armed robbery at the Ball Park leisure centre.

As PC Dalby followed the fugitives, he was warned to "back off" and at least one shot was fired. He was hit in the leg and needed emergency surgery for the removal of a bullet from the thigh. He is recovering in Bradford Royal Infirmary. His injuries are not life-threatening and he is said to be comfortable. His colleague, PC Simon Binks, 28, was receiving treatment for shock yesterday.

Mr Hellawell said: "It shows what low life there is in society today. It's been a weekend of policing in Bradford which shows

the sacrifice and bravery of police officers and the violence and unspeakable depths to which some criminals in this country will go in the furtherance of crime."

He said one of the most sickening aspects of the shooting was that only seconds after it happened a piece of electrical equipment was stolen from the stolen car. Police caught the thieves almost immediately.

Mr Hellawell said that although he did not want guns used regularly by police, "this is one circumstance where I would have felt firearms would have been useful to the officer". He said he wanted his officers to have CS gas or pepper sprays. "We've been pressing the Government for about three years

to be issued with some form of propellant. It gives police officers more confidence."

He praised the courage and bravery of his men: "The police officers of this country are the heroes of the end of the 20th century. The people who take the brunt of the violence in this country are the young police officers who walk out on the streets. Every day they put their life at risk."

The shooting happened after the gunman's car crashed into bollards. As PC Dalby, a single man from Bradford, cornered them in an alley, one of the men, a mixed race Asian, turned and fired at him with a shotgun from less than 20 yards. They fled leaving the officer, who is from Bradford, stunned on

the ground and bleeding badly. Fifteen minutes earlier, the four had held up the leisure centre, the home of the Yorkshire County Cricket Club's academy. The gang, wearing masks, had coshed the manager with a shotgun, causing a minor injury, before escaping with cash.

Superintendent Nigel Sutcliffe, PC Dalby's station commander, said it was only through sheer luck that PC Dalby was not killed.

"The idea of aiming for a part of the body is a nonsense. He was aiming at the police officer and just happened to hit a fleshy part."

Detectives are treating the shooting as attempted murder. PC Dalby is expected to remain in hospital for at least two weeks.

## Ageing population causes huge rise in social workers

By RUSSELL JENKINS

SOCIAL work has become the fastest-growing occupation, with battalions of community care workers, residential care assistants and home helps recruited to look after an ageing population.

The growing army of "carers" outnumbers the nation's "protectors" by a margin of four to one: the caring services can pitch 964,000 social workers into the front line compared with only 238,000 serving in the entire Armed Forces.

Employment figures drawn up by the Central Statistical Office for the Government depict buoyant service industries set against dormant and declining manufacturing and construction sectors. The number working in the construction industry has fallen from 1,116,000 in 1990 to 818,000 last June, and the number employed in manufacturing from 4,605,000 to 3,840,000.

Caring for the elderly is big business and likely to get bigger as the nine million Britons now aged between 50 and 64 reach pensionable age. Their ranks will be swelled in the early decades of the next

century as the post-war "baby boomers" start collecting their pensions. The number of social workers rose by nearly 25 per cent from 794,000 in June 1990 to 964,000 at the same time last year, almost entirely because of the expansion in care for the elderly.

The numbers of social workers employed by local authorities to monitor problem families has fallen slightly and there has been little increase in the number of carers working in residential homes in the public sector. However, the enormous growth in private residential homes in the late 1980s and early 1990s has created a huge market for professional carers such as care assistants and community psychiatrists.

John Findlay, social services national officer for Unison, the public sector union, said that the figures reflected a deep-seated change within society. Families no longer look after the old at home but expect them to be looked after in homes.

This has provided a huge source of employment but, with places costing about £325 a week, at an enormous cost to

taxpayers and the families themselves.

Unison wants ministers to review the tax system to take account of the changes. They favour an increase in National Insurance contributions to take account of the rising costs of looking after the elderly.

The number working in the computer industry and related businesses has risen from 2,300,000 to 2,400,000 during the past five years, and inward investment and industrial construction are significant growth areas.

Elsewhere the figures show a picture of Britain at odds with the upbeat speeches of Trade Department ministers. The number working in the post and telecommunications industry has fallen from 462,000 to 395,000 in the past five years. The number of teachers, doctors and nurses has been roughly static.

In the construction industry, housing has yet to recover from the recession. Gary Roebuck, economic advisor for the Building Employers' Federation, said that about 460,000 jobs — a quarter of its workforce — have been lost since 1989.

The manufacturing sector has lost about 790,000 jobs in the past five years and unemployment in the industry is running at about 16 per cent. Some workers have moved to Germany and other continental countries in search of work and others are being retrained. Mr Roebuck, reflecting the pessimistic mood among builders and developers, said: "The trend at the moment remains basically slowly downwards."

Ageless ageing, pages 12, 13

### EMPLOYMENT FIGURES

Occupation	June 1990	June 1994	June 1995
Armed Forces	303,000	250,000	238,000
Construction	1,116,000	852,000	818,000
Education	1,805,000	1,763,000	1,770,000
Health activities	1,445,000	1,457,000	1,458,000
Social work	794,000	927,000	964,000
Post and telecoms	462,000	410,000	395,000
Computer industries	2,203,000	2,233,000	2,403,000
Manufacturing	4,605,000	3,789,000	3,840,000

Source: Central Statistical Office



One of the photographs taken by the schoolgirls. The fairies were stuck to toadstools with hatpins

## Cousins' fairy tale casts a spell over Hollywood film-makers

By PAUL WILKINSON

A FAIRY story that intrigued the public for more than 50 years before being revealed as a children's hoax is to be made into a film. In 1917, two schoolgirl cousins, Elsie Wright, 15, and Frances Griffiths, 9, convinced the experts that they had photographed fairies dancing in the woods at Cottingley Dell near Bingley in West Yorkshire.

Kodak verified that the plates taken with the girls' old box Brownie camera were genuine and the novelist Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, a keen spiritualist, became a firm believer. Despite a close similarity to the fairies depicted by the illustrator Arthur Rackham, the pictures convinced thousands of people that fairies existed.

But in 1983, Elsie, long since married with children of her own, disclosed that it was all a trick to save Frances from being told off by her mother for falling into Cottingley Beck and getting her clothes wet. Now Paramount is planning a film, *The Golden Afternoon*, based on the girls' adventures that day. It will be shot at Pinewood studios and on location in Yorkshire. The



The drawings by Elsie Hill were good enough to convince Sir Arthur Conan Doyle they were real



Swedish director Lasse Hallström is to direct and his wife Lena Olin, who starred opposite Daniel Day-Lewis in *The Unbearable Lightness of Being*, is tipped for a part.

The film will show how Elsie Wright, later Mrs Frank Hill, and Frances, who died in 1986, copied the fairies from *Princess Mary's Gift Book* and used hatpins to stick them to toadstools as they were dancing on them. They took the photographs to

confirm their story that Frances had been playing with the fairies in the brook. Mrs Hill later told how she had drawn the figures herself using sepia ink and how they cut them out. Frances cut round the fairies' hands so badly that experts who studied the pictures became convinced that they were webbed.

The plates were developed by her sceptical father and kept in a drawer until her mother mentioned them at a

spiritualist lecture. Conan Doyle's sister was at the meeting and told her brother, who became almost obsessed with the supernatural after his son was killed during the First World War.

The writer sent his agent to Cottingley to examine the scene and obtain the plates. He published the pictures in *Strand* magazine and sent the girls £20 in war bonds. In 1922 he based his book *The Coming of the Fairies* on the photographs.

Mrs Hill said later that his intense interest put the girls off admitting it was a hoax. She said: "I felt that I could not now say they were fakes. It might have upset him dreadfully." She decided to confess in 1983 after thinking it would be unfair on her grandchildren if they discovered their grandmother had photographed fairies. "They might have been teased," she said. She also confessed to not believing in fairies. "I never have and never will."

Frances, however, asserted until she died that the photographs were genuine.

Much of the film will be shot in Yorkshire this spring but nowhere near Cottingley. A site in upper Wharfedale has been chosen near the beauty spot of Kilsney Crag.

## Victorian photographer blamed for whiff of supernatural world

By JOHN YOUNG

THE "ghost" of a Victorian photographer with an apparent aversion to music is causing something of a stink at her former home on the Isle of Wight.

Volunteers restoring the house in Freshwater, where Julia Margaret Cameron lived from 1860 until her death in 1879, complain that they are assaulted by an overpowering smell every time they switch on their music player.

Leo Cox, one of the volunteers working for the trust that owns the building, said: "It's a dank, earthy smell, like a rotting body that has been buried for years."

The stench is quite overpowering, it really knocks you back. Mr Cox is familiar with such smells, having worked in a cemetery and a

church crypt. He claims to have seen Mrs Cameron's ghost several times but, despite having two loaded cameras at the ready, has so far failed to capture it on film.

Mrs Cameron took up photography soon after her arrival in Freshwater at the age of 48. With Queen Victoria in frequent residence at nearby Osborne House after the death of Prince Albert, the village became a fashionable resort for famous writers, artists and actors.

Among her subjects were her long-time friend and neighbour, Alfred, Lord Tennyson, Charles Darwin, William Thackeray, the actress Ellen Terry, Robert Browning, Holman Hunt, Edward Lear, Lewis Carroll and Alice Liddell, the model for Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. Although

her work was derided by her professional contemporaries, mainly for chauvinistic reasons, she quickly acquired a popular following.

More than a century after her death, the Royal Photographic Society says that it receives more inquiries about Mrs Cameron than about any other British photographer.

The house was threatened with demolition to make way for a block of flats but was rescued by the trust in 1993 with support from, among others, the photographers David Bailey and Koo Stark and the actor Charlton Heston.

Among the trustees is Hugh Noyes, son of the poet Alfred Noyes, former High Sheriff of the Isle of Wight and one-time parliamentary correspondent of *The Times*. Many people claim to have

seen or heard Mrs Cameron's ghost, including the house's former owner, Julia Howard, who said that she often heard her taffeta skirt rustling next to her on the stairs.

Mr Cox is not alone in complaining of the smell. Ron Smith, the trust's chairman, and Brian Balshaw, the resident warden, have also suffered and audiences at musical evenings have been forced to hold their noses.

Mr Smith said: "It's really embarrassing. We've had the drains checked and they're OK."

Mrs Cameron's ghost is apparently not simply giving vent to its feelings about late 20th-century pop music. The concerts have chiefly featured 18th and 19th-century classical composers, including Vivaldi, Haydn and Liszt.

## Eurostar train puts Kent on timetable

The high-speed Eurostar stopped at a provincial station for the first time yesterday. Previously the 180mph train ran straight from Waterloo station in London through the Channel Tunnel to Paris and Brussels. The new stop at Ashford International Terminal in Kent will not add to journey times, and fares from Ashford will be the same as from London. About nine trains a day are due to stop there.

Leading article, page 17

### Jobcentre case

A woman accused of attempted murder at Bexleyheath Jobcentre in southeast London was remanded in custody. Pearlina Aytun, 27, will appear before Bexley magistrates again next Monday charged with trying to kill Simon Bridge, Mandy King, Sonia Fairburn and Robert Wood last week. Her solicitor made no application for bail.

### Court verdict

People in England and Wales are divided over allowing television cameras into court to film for broadcast. A MORI survey of 2,000 people for the BBC found 49 per cent against, 36 per cent in favour and 15 per cent undecided. Sixty-five per cent said they would favour an experiment similar to one in Scotland in 1994, with 27 per cent opposed.

### Carpet cache

A collection of carpets worth up to £450,000 each, assembled by the Bernheimer family of Munich, founders of what was once the largest antiques and decorating firm in the world, is to be auctioned at Christie's in London next month. The carpets, some 500 years old, were hidden in monasteries to save them from Nazi treasure hunters.

### Holiday club risk

Children are being put in danger in badly run ill-equipped holiday clubs throughout the Mediterranean, *Holiday Which?* says today. Some clubs were run from the backrooms of bars and were overcrowded with little for youngsters to do. At others, children could run unsupervised across busy roads, the magazine warns.

### Zoo charges

Two men charged over the slaughter of a collection of exotic birds were remanded in custody for a week by magistrates at Stratford, east London. James Allen, 19, of Canning Town, and Royston Budget, 18, of Plaistow, were accused of aggravated burglary at Plashet Park Zoo where 36 birds were killed.

### About to receive

A pub and restaurant business owned by the television chef Keith Floyd went into receivership. Grant Thornton, the receivers, said the Malsters at Tucknhay, Devon, had failed because of losses incurred during its development phase. The inn, opened in 1989, would continue trading while a buyer was sought.

### CORRECTION

A report on sexism in the City (December 21) referred to Samantha Phillips's award of £18,000 last year "after rejecting the advances of a married colleague". While her claim for unfair dismissal was upheld by an industrial tribunal, her allegation that she was sexually harassed by Giles Wilkinson, the colleague concerned, was rejected. We apologise to Mr Wilkinson for the error.

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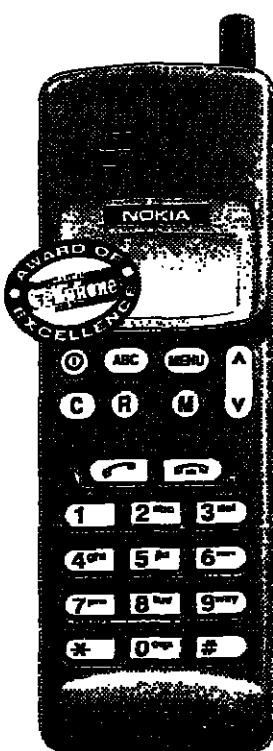
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## Former Shanghai welfare chief denies starving children to death and raping girl

## China opens doors to answer claims of orphans' abuse

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN SHANGHAI

CHINA threw open the doors of an orphanage at the centre of an international dispute here yesterday in an unprecedented public relations exercise, but it failed to refute American reports that deliberate starvation had led to the preventable deaths of hundreds of children during the late 1980s and early 1990s.

The orphanage, the Shanghai Children's Welfare Institute, which cares for 512 orphans in an old and chilly former Catholic mission, was predictably functioning normally yesterday, as guests were shown well-fed, warmly-clad children being cared for by attentive staff.

The institute is held up as a model for Chinese orphanages even though until 1992, according to the New York-based Human Rights Watch, children were being deliberately starved to death. In the 331-page report, the group said "the brutal treatment of orphans in Shanghai, which included deliberate starvation, torture and sexual assault, continued over many years and led to the unnatural deaths of more than 1,000 children between 1988 and 1992". However, a govern-

ment investigation completed by 1992 cleared the orphanage of any wrongdoing.

Now foreign couples visit the institute in the hope of adopting a child. Some of the scenes of mentally or severely physically handicapped children were harrowing, as they would be in any such institution, but many of the orphans were playing happily yesterday, as others received massage and therapeutic treatment for cerebral palsy and other physical and mental infirmities. Bizarrely and perhaps excessively, there was even a computer room for the children with new monitor screens.

The institute's former director, Han Weichang, 48, who was accused by the rights group of raping a girl in his care, emphatically denied the reports that deliberate abuse and starvation had led to preventable deaths. He said that high mortality rates during that period phanage at that time was caused by medical problems, not abuse.

He admitted that the death rate had risen to 19 per cent — far below the "up to 90 per cent" alleged by the rights group — in the severe winter

of 1989, when electrical power for heating failed, but he said it was now about 3 to 5 per cent. "I don't know the details of the figures — I can't remember," Mr Han said.

Officials at the orphanage failed to provide statistics for these years, saying "we did not collect them". Given the previous investigation, and the present high-profile visit of correspondents, which the Chinese Foreign Ministry had helped to organise, this seemed a significant omission.

Correspondents were also not permitted to visit another orphanage on an island at the mouth of the Yangtze, where the group said abuses were continuing. But it has acknowledged that conditions in Shanghai have improved.



Han Weichang, the former director of the Shanghai orphanage, plays with a child there yesterday during an officially sanctioned visit by foreign journalists. A US rights group alleges starvation and torture led to deaths of 1,000 children

paid against him. "That's why she made these mean and base charges," he said.

Mr Han denied the rape allegations and said the girl was mentally retarded and had been urged to press

charges by Mrs Zhang. She is said to have recanted, but there is no confirmation of this. If the Shanghai authorities failed to provide figures for mortality here in the late 1980s and early 1990s, neither

has Human Rights Watch proved that, as it says, there was "clear evidence".

A Channel 4 programme tonight will look at the situation of China's alleged children's 'dying rooms' in more

detail. The screening of the programme has already complicated the visit to China of Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary. Peking wants the British Government to stop the programme being shown.

## Warning to Peking by Rifkind

FROM MICHAEL STEINBERGER IN HONG KONG

BRITAIN will consider taking China to the World Court if Peking carries out its threat to dismantle Hong Kong's Legislative Council in 1997, Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, said yesterday.

Mr Rifkind urged the mainland Government to scrap plans to replace the council with a provisional assembly. He told members London would be willing to appeal to the World Court or pursue any other legal options that might persuade China to keep the democratically elected legislature. However, Peking does not recognise the court's authority.

Mr Rifkind, in Hong Kong for several days of consultations before heading to Peking, fielded questions from council members in a half-empty chamber at a meeting open to public and press.

It was the first time a British Foreign Secretary had appeared before Hong Kong's legislature in an open session and was seen as a fence-mending gesture by Mr Rifkind, widely criticised for failing to tackle the council's future during talks in October with his Chinese counterpart, Qian Qichen.

Mr Rifkind promised to take a more assertive stand when he meets Mr Qian and other officials in Peking, where he will arrive today.

## Jet crash in Zaire market 'kills 250'

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

AT LEAST 250 people died yesterday when a cargo plane crashed into a crowded market in the centre of Kinshasa, the capital of Zaire, an official of the International Committee of the Red Cross said.

Most of the victims were women and children gathered in the market of corrugated iron and wooden shacks. "Many of the bodies were mutilated. The plane ploughed through the market for about 100 yards before it came to a halt," a witness said.

A fire crew from the nearby Ndolo airport, from where the Russian-made Antonov 32 took off, rushed to the scene and tried to dampen the flames. Officials said the cargo jet overshot a runway and tore across a busy street into the marketplace at about 1pm. The jet ripped through cars and hawkers' stalls.

Witnesses said the plane then exploded. There was no official word on casualties, but hospital workers and the national news agency estimated that more than 200 people had died.

It was not known what the jet was carrying or how many people were on board, although there were reports to be at least five crew.

The crash was the second in the past month involving a Zaire-based cargo jet. On December 18, a jet operated by Zaire's Trans Service Airline, a charter firm, crashed in Angola, killing at least 130 people.

## Head of shattered Shin Bet resigns over Rabin killing

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

THE head of Israel's internal security service Shin Bet resigned yesterday in a belated gesture over the debacle of November 4, when his agents failed to prevent the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, the Prime Minister.

The departure of the man known only as "K", the initial of his first name, for security reasons had been expected, but political sources said that it had been delayed because Shimon Peres, the new Prime Minister, was afraid that without him the shattered service might fall apart completely.

A number of leading Shin Bet members have stood down since the organisation's disastrous performance at the Tel Aviv peace rally when Rabin was shot by a right-wing Jewish militant, Yigal Amir, 25, who was able to approach him at close range without being challenged.

Asked to confirm radio reports about the resignation yesterday, Aliza Goren, chief spokeswoman for Mr Peres, said: "Unfortunately, yes." Most Israeli intelligence analysts had expected the resigna-

tion to come with publication of the state commission of inquiry's report on the killing.

Ironically "K", who only took the post at the beginning of last year, was regarded as an expert on right-wing Jewish extremists and was resented by many of his colleagues who regarded the Arab threat as the greatest risk to the future of the state.

According to Israeli officials, "K" was one of the country's top secret business when Rabin was shot. The inquiry commission has heard evidence from witnesses who said they had advised him not to leave because of the risk of violence at the rally.

"K" will stay at his post until a successor is found. Morale in Shin Bet is said to be extremely low, with further sackings expected when the commission's report appears.

Yesterday the Clinton Administration deepened its involvement in the Middle East peace process, promising peacekeeping troops for the Golan Heights after any accord between Israel and Syria. The promise was given by William Perry, the Defence Secretary, after talks in Jerusalem with Mr Peres, who has made peace with Syria before elections in October the priority of his Government.

Yesterday's statement came on the eve of the arrival in the region of Warren Christopher, the Secretary of State, on his fourteenth shuttle mission between Jerusalem and Damascus, amid a mood of cautious optimism on both sides.

President Clinton made the opening for yesterday's commitment in November 1994 when he said that he would be "willing to make the case" to Congress for putting US troops on the Golan Heights, the strategic plateau occupied by Israeli forces since 1967.



Perry: offer to police any Golan agreement

## Road mayhem condemns India to annual death toll of 60,000

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

INDIA'S roads claimed 60,000 lives last year, making them among the world's most deadly. A vengeful, never-back-down style of driving, coupled with poor and corrupt policing, is to blame.

Congestion and carnage are increasing in line with traffic. Delhi, always top of the deaths league table, surpassed itself in 1995 with 2,078 fatalities in more than 9,000 accidents — 10 per cent up on 1994. There were 3,650 deaths on Britain's roads in 1994.

There has been a marked increase in competition for highway space in the past two years, with no corresponding increase in traffic police. In Delhi, they are as rare as winter frost — fewer than

2,000 in a city of 25 million vehicles. The capital has more vehicles than Bombay, Calcutta and Madras combined, but proportionately fewer policemen.

The Central Road Research Institute, reporting on the 1995 carnage, observed that Delhi had the lowest level of traffic discipline — obvious to any visitor.

There is no concept of sticking to lanes, nor of basic rules of courtesy. Might wins: buses are king of the road, causing a substantial proportion of deaths. Many bus and lorry drivers are not properly qualified and if caught without a licence can usually pay a bribe and keep on driving. Since 1981, cities with

more than one million people have risen from 11 to 23. Most are choked with traffic. Rarely is there any attempt to control emissions pollution. In Delhi the biggest polluters are government buses and two-stroke scooters.

Pedestrians were the main victims last year, accounting for 40 per cent of deaths nationwide. In Calcutta, where crowds spill on to packed roads, 90 per cent of deaths involved pedestrians.

Traffic deaths peak during festive seasons, when drink driving is particularly widespread. In Delhi, there are rarely any police spot checks. When there are, the breathalyser is used more to extract bribes than breath.

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# Republican rivals turn their fire on 'Senator Straddle'

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

WITH just five weeks left until the Iowa caucuses, the Republican presidential candidates have rounded on Robert Dole, the clear front-runner, in a last-ditch attempt to deprive him of the party's nomination.

For months Phil Gramm, Lamar Alexander, Steve Forbes and Pat Buchanan have fought among themselves to become the Senate majority leader's main challenger, but since the new year they have turned their fire on him, because his hold on the race was seen to be fast becoming unbreakable.

In a key speech to the conservative Heritage Foundation late last week, Mr Alexander, the former Governor of Tennessee, said that the lacklustre Mr Dole would be a "sitting duck" for President Clinton in the election and would lose the Republicans not just the White House but Congress too.

Mr Dole was too old, lacked vision and had spent almost his entire career in Washington. "We must bring ourselves to say to Senator Dole, 'We appreciate your long service in the Senate but, with respect, the debate next October with Bill Clinton is not the right place for you to be,'" Mr Alexander said. "It may be Senator Dole's turn, but it is not his revolution."

Mr Gramm, the conservative Texas senator, has seized on Mr Dole's compromises in Washington's budget negotiations to resurrect the 'Senator Straddle' slur that George

Bush used so successfully in 1988's New Hampshire primary after Mr Dole refused to sign a pledge on no new taxes. Mr Gramm is broadcasting commercials that begin: "Remember Senator Straddle? He cuts deals and voters rejected him. Well, Bob Dole hasn't changed."

Mr Forbes, the publishing tycoon, may be a political novice but he is airing the most negative commercials of the lot. These are mostly directed at Mr Dole, portraying him as an incurable Washington tax-and-spenders, but ironically Mr Forbes's \$10 million (\$5.5 million) advertising blitz over the past three months has actually helped Mr Dole by eclipsing Mr Gramm and Mr Alexander.

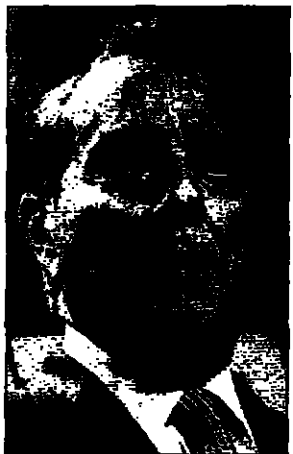
Mr Dole gave his more

conservative rivals a fat target last week by breaking ranks with Newt Gingrich, the Republican House Speaker, and demanding the reopening of the federal government after a record 21-day shutdown, but a new Gallup poll yesterday suggested that was a popular move with the public.

It showed Mr Clinton's nine-point lead over Mr Dole last month had shrunk to just one point, and that he was level with Mr Clinton when respondents were asked who had handled the budget crisis best. Mr Dole "was seen as more humane, less rigid and not in Newt's pocket", said Stephen Hess, a political analyst at the Brookings Institution in Washington. The poll also showed that Mr Clinton's approval rating had slumped to 42 per cent from 51 per cent when the shutdown began on December 15.

Mr Dole sees his rivals' attacks as a perverse form of flattery. Nelson Warfield, his spokesman, said: "There's a growing sense of desperation among those in the back of the pack and sadly they seem to have decided that the only way to advance themselves is to lash out at Bob Dole... They'll reduce themselves to a group that most people won't want to sit in a bus with."

Back to business: After the federal worker layoffs and the emergence of a new Clinton plan, the White House and Congress will again sit down this week for talks on a seven-year balanced budget. (AP)



Dole: hold on race is becoming unbreakable

## Computer failures plague Denver showcase airport

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

DENVER'S huge international airport, which opened late and \$2 billion (£1.2 billion) over budget, has been plagued with failures in its crucial radar and computer systems.

There were breakdowns on three out of every four days between May and October last year, the *Denver Post* has reported. Air traffic controllers' screens have gone blank, the control tower has lost track of taxiing aircraft and pilots have been given wildly inaccurate weather forecasts.

Officials insisted passengers have not been endangered — merely delayed by the use of old-fashioned back-up systems. But the report will be a severe embarrassment to the airport's backers, including Federico Pena, President Clinton's Transport Secretary.

America's first big new airport in 20 years was intended as the last word in convenience and passenger safety. It was also meant to lift Colorado into the top rank of international business centres. Instead, from the first testing of its vaunted automatic baggage handling system, it has been ridiculed.

The system was designed to do away with the armies of baggage handlers employed at most airports, replacing them with hundreds of miles of automatic conveyors. At its first public demonstration, designer bags emerged mangled and useless. The \$4.5 billion airport opened with manual baggage handling.

The construction of the airport brought protests from Indians, claiming sacred land had been defiled, and Denverites who objected to the extra 20-mile drive to catch a plane.

The new report, compiled from documents obtained under America's Freedom of Information Act, shows that last August there was not a single day on which all the computer systems functioned properly. Weather radar frequently reported storms when conditions were perfect and sometimes failed to spot dangerous "wind shear" conditions generated by the nearby Rocky Mountains.

The Federal Aviation Administration has acknowledged that perfecting the radar and computer systems could cost millions.

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Elizabeth Vellis, 12, speeds down Capitol Hill on a sledge yesterday as snow continued to fall in the Washington area. The worst snowstorms to hit the American capital in decades have forced the closure of government offices and schools, and confined a million people to their homes

## Snow forces new Washington shutdown

Tom Rhodes encounters visions resembling the aftermath of apocalypse in a car journey through the American capital. The Arctic conditions have closed government offices and businesses

It was 6.45am, pitch dark and mine was the sole car inching along the icy highway from the Virginia suburbs into Washington when a figure flagged me down from the top of a 4ft snowdrift. I touched the brakes and the car spun around through 180 degrees.

The figure climbed in and began peeling off layers of scarves, hats and coats. "Sorry about that," said the cheery woman who finally emerged. "I'm a nurse. My car's buried and I've got to get to my hospital. They've had no relief for 48 hours. Plus, I can help you push if you get stuck."

And so we crawled on past the occasional abandoned vehicle into a capital paralysed by its second-worst snowstorm of the century, a city like a shrouded vision after the apocalypse.

Occasional huddled figures flitted through the snow, tramps sheltered beside steaming sidewalks. Underground stations were empty but for a few stalwart travellers.

Not a shop, office, school or restaurant was open. Only those like the nurse, who had to work, had ignored

the official warnings and ventured out. More than a million people in and around America's capital are stranded in their homes until fleets of snowploughs and salting lorries can begin to make inroads into the downfall.

In an irony lost on few in Washington yesterday, the continuing blizzards had also closed the seat of American government on the day President Clinton and the Congress had agreed that 250,000 federal workers should return to their jobs after more than three weeks of the budget impasse.

With 16in of snow having fallen overnight in the capital's centre, and two feet on the runways at Dulles International Airport, officials had taken a decision none had wanted: to

close all government offices under the weight of the blizzard.

"It's kind of God's revenge on the craziness of Washington, I guess," said John Sturdivant, head of the American Federation of Government Employees.

Mr Clinton, who had braved the snowdrifts to attend church the previous day, cancelled his fundraising lunch, only streets away from the White House but agreed to meet the Republican leadership over plans for a balanced budget.

Warren Christopher, the Secretary of State, called off his mission to Jerusalem and Damascus, one of thousands grounded by the closure of Washington's satellite airports.

The British Embassy was closed to

all but essential workers running switchboards and cable offices. One staff member said: "There can't be more than ten people in today."

Only the Supreme Court, the last bastion of the legislature and guardian of the Constitution, continued to sit yesterday.

In a city renowned for the efficiency of its traffic police, it was somehow appropriate that Marion Barry, the Mayor, should announce that his wardens had worked for 18 hours, clearing the roads of unwanted cars and issuing hundreds of parking tickets to many who were probably unable to move their stranded vehicles.

Among those who failed to heed travel warnings the previous night, one underground driver was killed when his train skidded into another. About 200 people were stranded for six hours through the night on an unheated commuter train stalled by the storm. At least 120 people, 90 of them bedridden, were evacuated from a nursing home after the roof fell in. There were no injuries.

## 23 die in worst American blizzards for 70 years

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN NEW YORK

TWENTY-THREE deaths in eastern America were blamed yesterday on the region's worst snowstorms for 70 years.

Thousands were left without power and most travel by plane and road was nearly impossible. Even subway systems were affected as snow and ice collected on above-ground sections, with 200 people stranded

for hours on a Metro train in Washington, and widespread disruptions on New York City's system.

Main airports for Washington, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Newark, New Jersey, and New York City closed and converted their waiting areas into overnight shelters.

Drifts at New York airports were as high as 20in, according to George Mold, the port authority's executive director. In the Caribbean, American

Airlines reached most passengers to tell them it had cancelled 17 flights between snowed-in cities and its sunny hub in Puerto Rico. About 2,000 passengers were stranded, but only a few who had not heard the news arrived at San Juan airport.

The storm, which took snow from Georgia to New England and as far west as Ohio, left 43in the hills of southern West Virginia, 30in in parts of Virginia and eastern Tennessee, and 24in in eastern Kentucky. Even northeastern Georgia got a foot. In Toler, Kentucky, Cindy Rogers, a nurse, got to work with the help of the National Guard, which picked her up at her house in a four-wheel-drive Humvee.

Philadelphia's 30in of snow broke the 1983 record, and 22in fell in parts of New York City. Parts of Connecticut had 21in and Boston had 10in. The international airport at New-

ark, New Jersey, broke the 1947 record with 27.4in, and Washington had a record 17.1in. On New York's Long Island, a Coast Guard helicopter rescued four duck hunters and a dog from a 14ft skiff in the Great South Bay. On Sunday, they became disoriented as the bay froze around them, and used a mobile phone to summon help. The postal service said no mail would be delivered around New York City or Washington.

## Superman ride will terrify at 100mph

BY GILES WHITTELL

CONSTRUCTION has begun in California on the world's fastest, strangest and no doubt most terrifying roller-coaster.

The ride, planned to open in May, begins with a horizontal acceleration to 100mph, leaves passengers weightless for six long seconds and is all over within half a minute.

"Superman: The Escape" is being built at the Six Flags Magic Mountain theme park north of Los Angeles. Its owner, Time Warner, hopes to generate enough publicity and custom to earn back its investment by breaking the 100mph barrier, which is to roller-coaster engineers what the sound barrier was to aeronautical engineers in the 1950s.

They will do so with an electro-magnetic catapult. Unlike conventional roller-coasters, which begin with a but-terfly-inducing crawl up an artificial hill, this one will send its six-tonne cars hurtling along a flat track, thanks to magnetic accelerators like those long dreamt of for high-speed trains.

Once their top speed has been gained, the cars will lurch into a climb and will

then appear to hang momentarily at the top of a 415ft tower. Passengers will finally plummet earthwards at something approaching terminal velocity, decelerate backwards along the same flat track. "People have been talking about 100mph roller-coasters for the past century," Paul Ruben of the magazine *Park World* told the *Los Angeles Times*. "The roller-coaster 'arms race' has been inching skyward, but this is a quantum leap."

Until the new ride opens, the fastest coaster in the world remains "Desperado", a two-year-old monster in Stateline, Nevada, whose screaming charges descend its first incline at a terrifying 94mph.

Loops and twists are out of the question on the "Superman" ride, Time Warner says, because of the stresses on construction materials and the human body at such high speeds. Passengers will be subjected to a "G-force" of 1.5 Gs as they accelerate, and at the top of the ride will be able to leave a pencil dangling in front of their noses as if they were in space.

## US court rejects call on condoms

Washington: The Supreme Court rejected a challenge to the distribution of condoms in public schools. The judges, without comment, turned away arguments that such a condom-availability programme in Falmouth, Massachusetts, schools wrongly interferes with parents' right to guide their children's moral upbringing. (AP)

### Island quake

Sakhalin Island: A strong earthquake rocked northern Sakhalin Island in the same area where a quake destroyed an entire town last spring. No casualties were immediately reported. (AP)

### Victory claim

Guatemala City: Alvaro Arzu, a former Foreign Minister who promised to further democracy in Guatemala, proclaimed himself the winner of the country's presidential elections. (AP)

### Japan choice

Tokyo: Japan's coalition formally nominated Ryutaro Hashimoto, Trade and Industry Minister, as Prime Minister, paving the way for him to take up the post this week. (Reuters)

### Portugal floods

Lisbon: Rain lashed the Portuguese capital, cutting off power in the city centre and flooding suburbs, civil defence officials said. Several roads were blocked and one railway line was submerged. (Reuters)

## Defender of OJ seeks stardom as judge on TV

BY GILES WHITTELL

THE LAWYER who won O.J. Simpson's acquittal may take the final step in his transformation from civil rights activist to out-and-out celebrity. Johnnie Cochran wants to be an actor.

The flamboyant black defence attorney is working with a leading Hollywood television producer to develop a television series in which he would star as a judge, according to an entertainment magazine published on the Internet.

Mr Cochran has already landed the most lucrative book

deals, worth more than \$4 million (£2.6 million), of any Simpson trial participant and is said to get nearly \$50,000 an appearance on the US lecture circuit — on a par with General Colin Powell and former President George Bush.

The series would star a younger actor playing his nephew who "would really be like me when I was younger". Mr Cochran told the *Los Angeles Times* columnist Mr Showbiz, Viacom, the parent company of Paramount Pictures, confirmed at the weekend that the project was in the pipeline, with Dean Cain, producer of the long-running detective series *Columbo*, at the helm.

This is Mr Cochran's first foray into the performing arts, but many believe he acted to the hilt to obtain Mr Simpson's acquittal. He was certainly willing to pull on a woolly hat in court to suggest his client could not have used it as a disguise, and his taste in theatrical oratory offended millions when he likened a racist detective to Hitler.

A former prosecutor in the Los Angeles District Attorney's office, Mr Cochran swapped sides in the early 1980s to build a hugely successful law practice defending black victims of police abuse. His fellow partners are all black, and most are millionaires.

Now 58, he took delivery of his first Rolls-Royce 18 years ago. His latest bears the number plate JCI.



Cochran: won praise for Simpson trial 'acting'

## Enjoy a free day at a health club

An introduction to a health club is an ideal way to start a fitter lifestyle. And today *The Times* invites readers to spend a free day at one of the 73 health clubs throughout the UK participating in this offer (a full list was published yesterday).

Exercise not only helps to keep your body young and supple, it is also good for the heart, lungs and circulation — and it makes you feel good. So this is a great chance to start shaping a new you.

As our guest you will be given a free fitness assessment, free use of most facilities at the club, such as its swimming pool, sauna, steam room, aerobics classes or gym.

By taking up our offer of a free day at a participating health club, you will automatically be entered into a prize draw to receive a free one-year membership to the club of your choice. A total of 680,000 worth of free memberships is available.



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# Machiavellian fox who could transform himself into a man of principle



Steady steps to power: François Mitterrand as a child with his grandfather. left: as a soldier at the beginning of the Second World War; with Jean-Paul Sartre after peace was restored; as Justice Minister in 1956

## The enigma who gave power to a united Left

By R.W. JOHNSON

THROUGHOUT his long political career — he was a junior minister in 1945 — François Mitterrand remained an enigma. A man of enormous political talent, he also earned the reputation of being "too clever by half" and a political fox.

The shadow cast by the several Mitterrand affairs down the years never really lifted. It was not the least remarkable thing about his career that he nonetheless had several reincarnations as a man of principle.

It was probably only in his last years, when the revelations of his youthful association with the far Right and Vichy came to light, together with the disclosures that he had in effect maintained an entire alternative family, including a now adult illegitimate daughter, that some real hint was given of how much of Mitterrand's life had been so long and so successfully hidden. By then, however, it was too late to matter.

Mitterrand's many periods in office under the Fourth Republic made him an almost stereotypical "man of the system", but he managed to emerge as the leader of principled opposition to the institutions of the Fifth Republic which he termed "le coup d'état permanent" and as de Gaulle's most notable opponent from the early 1960s on.

De Gaulle himself had a high regard for Mitterrand and for many Socialists such as Guy Mollet and André Philippe, but he nourished a tireless enmity for Mitterrand from the very beginning, as if recognising the

David to his Goliath, or, as he would doubtless have seen it, the Mordred to his King Arthur.

In the 1965 presidential election, Mitterrand rallied nearly 45 per cent of the electorate to his side and forced de Gaulle into an unexpected second ballot. From that moment Mitterrand was always the man most likely to lead the Left back to power.

Undoubtedly his greatest achievement was the way in which, to that end, he unflinchingly deployed a sophisticated strategy over the next 16 years, gradually uniting the scattered divisions of the Left into an overwhelming electoral force. That he achieved by rebuilding the discredited French Socialist Party (the PS) so that it finally overtook the originally far stronger Communist Party, thus altering the centre of gravity of French political life. Probably no one else could have done that.

Mitterrand's strategy required not merely great fortitude and foresight but also great patience and an ability to keep his head under very heavy fire. Time and again, as the Communists lost ground they furiously attacked Mitterrand in the hope that he would attack them back and thus antagonise Communist voters. Over and over again Mitterrand turned the other cheek, for his strategy depended on gradually coaxing just those voters over to his side.

In the end Mitterrand did just that, allowing him to sweep the Left to power in 1981 and, within it, to provide the PS with an overall parliament-

ary majority. The history of that government was altogether less happy. Mitterrand's grasp of economics was poor and his initial over-expansion of demand led to an economic Waterloo by 1983: the rest of his presidency was spent in a disorderly retreat. During that retreat, almost every vestige of his principled version of socialism was jettisoned, rather as Napoleon's army threw away its weapons on the long retreat from Moscow. Things were never the same again.

Mitterrand had nothing if not a princely conception of

### POLITICAL FOX

his own role and seemed quite unbothered by this ideological shift or the damage it did to the PS. Again, in 1988, he showed himself a master of political tactics and recovered from an apparently hopeless position to trounce Jacques Chirac in the presidential election, thus becoming both the first President to cohabit successfully with an Opposition majority and also the only man ever to have won two presidential elections in France under the Fifth Repub-

lic. Again, however, the fruits of victory were wasted. Indeed, the fatal damage was done immediately, in the succeeding parliamentary election, when Mitterrand deployed all manner of Machiavellian tactics in an effort to push in a number of personal friends and centrist clients and thus rebalance his coalition.

Those tactics failed dismally as they were always bound to do: all Mitterrand did was to confuse and demoralise the

PS and thus rob it of the overall majority which it could undoubtedly have won had he put his full weight behind it. The result was to produce a minority PS government which never really managed to stamp its authority on the country in the five years that followed.

Again, Mitterrand jinxed his way through with all manner of sidesteps and dummies.

His favourite tactic was to lie in wait for opponents and then make an apparent sortie into their path. The opponent — M Chirac was a habitual

victim — would sally forth onto the attack, only to find that the whole move had been a feint and that they were now exposed to raking fire from a wholly unexpected direction.

After his re-election in 1988 Mitterrand maintained power with no real Left majority because of his adroitness in dividing the Right, even covertly assisting Jean-Marie Le Pen's National Front to that end.

This Levantine cleverness was often matched by personal pettiness. Though having selected the most able Prime Minister in sight in Michel Rocard, Mitterrand allowed his purely personal antipathy to M Rocard to wreck the best chance that his government had. M Rocard was dismissed as Prime Minister for no perceptible reason and Mitterrand's old girlfriend, Edith Cresson, was promoted way beyond her peers or indeed her talents to become the most disastrous and short-lived Prime Minister in recent French history.

The Bérégovoy administration which followed was undistinguished, to say the least, and its culmination in scandal and the suicide of Bérégovoy himself brought the long period of left-wing government to a disastrous and demoralised end.

None of that seemed to trouble Mitterrand, who had, long before the end, developed a strongly monarchical conception of his own role. As he put it, the institutions of the Fifth Republic might not have been made for him, but they suited him well enough all the same.

His second presidential term was a mistake and

subtracted from rather than added to the Mitterrand legend. He did nothing at all to help his party in the 1995 elections and Lionel Jospin, the PS candidate, clearly felt he had been badly let down by his old boss. Nonetheless, Jospin's ability to pull together the divided ranks of the Left and to give M Chirac a much closer run than had been anticipated, was in itself a tribute to Mitterrand.

Even after all the disappointments and betrayals, the old earthworks of the united Left were intact. Mitterrand had changed the Left into a force that could bid for power; that achievement remains.

Nicknamed "the Sphinx" for his inscrutability, "the Florentine" for his Machiavellian ways, and "God" in a popular television satire show, Mitterrand had the ability to inspire emotions ranging from reverence to deep irritation. George Bush, the former American President, said some world leaders would "roll their eyes" when he launched into a philosophical lecture about history.

Perhaps symbolically, his last journey was a Christmas visit to Egypt, the cradle of modern civilisation. After his first prostate operation in 1992, Mitterrand described his fight against cancer as "an honourable battle against oneself". People danced in the streets in May 1981 when Mitterrand was elected the first Socialist President of France. Yesterday many were crying at the news of their hero's death.

Leading article, page 17  
Obituary, page 19



Mitterrand at the height of his persuasive powers before the presidential election of 1988 when he showed himself a master of tactics and recovered from an apparently hopeless position to trounce Jacques Chirac

## Visionary pharaoh who built his pyramid

FROM BEN MACINTYRE  
IN PARIS

NOWHERE is the grand historical sweep of François Mitterrand's reign more visible than in the skyline of Paris which he tirelessly, some say arrogantly, reshaped as a permanent testament to his 14 years in office.

Mitterrand spent a staggering Fr30 billion (£4 billion) on his *Grands Travaux*. In his determination to leave a bricks-and-mortar epitaph, he was following a great French tradition that stretches from Louis XIV through the Napoleons to de Gaulle. Many projects were inherited, but Mitterrand pushed them through with single-minded determination — and disdain for cost — that said much about his vision of himself

its opening before he left office: even he admitted the acoustics are less than ideal.

He regarded the unfinished Bibliothèque Nationale de France, Europe's largest library, as his greatest architectural achievement. It was certainly the most expensive. Costs have exceeded Fr5

billion and in 1993 the Culture Minister toyed with aborting the project. Mitterrand's response was unequivocal: "You will never have an architectural policy if you make cuts all the time."

He completed the popular Musée d'Orsay's renovation, commissioned Jean Nouvel to

build the Arab Institute, and gave an emphasis to maintaining the city's architectural heritage.

The works prompted huge rows, but while some grumbled about design and others about cost, few challenged his right to fashion the capital as he saw fit. "Visitors will come

to see the Paris of architecture, the Paris of sculpture, the Paris of museums, the Paris of gardens... a city open to imagination, ideas and youth," he wrote.

But they would also, he ensured, see the Paris of François Mitterrand, the pharaoh who built the pyramid.

## Vichy activities left dark stain he could not deny

By BEN MACINTYRE

NOT until the last years of François Mitterrand's life did the spectre of Vichy and his hitherto obscure role in the French collaborationist government cast a long, dark shadow over his career.

In September 1994 Pierre Péan, a journalist, revealed the extent to which Mitterrand had been involved in right-wing groups in the 1930s and the enthusiastic part he had played in the Vichy government of Marshal Pétain before joining the Resistance in 1943.

In his teens, M Péan wrote, Mitterrand had been an enthusiastic right-winger and supporter of the right-wing Croix de Feu movement, with several friends among the Cagoule, a prewar underground fascist movement.

After his third attempt to escape from a German POW camp succeeded, he gained a job under the Vichy government. Mitterrand later claimed that his work involved tracing French prisoners of war, but as an intelligence official he also filled out forms on Communists and other "state enemies".

He was not directly involved with the deportation of Jews but many of his friends were, and the precise extent of his knowledge of the Vichy role in Nazi atrocities has never been fully established. He received the Francisque, Vichy's highest honour, from the hands of Marshal Pétain. While his

career was in the ascendant, Mitterrand angrily denied his Vichy past. Later he maintained that he could hardly have turned down the Francisque and that his relations with the Vichy regime were a necessary evil, springing from misguided nationalism rather than collaboration. He also implied, less than convincingly, that his work as a Vichy official was a cover for Resistance activities. Those were "turbulent times", he said, "I came out relatively well."

Perhaps more disturbing than his youthful enthusiasm for Pétain was his enduring

### WARTIME ROLE

relationship with René Bousquet, the former Vichy chief of police responsible for sending thousands of French Jews to Nazi camps.

Bousquet was formally charged with crimes against humanity in 1978, but Mitterrand did not break off their relationship until 1986. Bousquet died from an assassin's bullet before he was brought to trial.

In a television interview in 1994, Mitterrand admitted intervening to prevent the prosecution of Vichy officials to avoid "reopening the old wounds". As for Bousquet, who as a newspaper executive had helped Mitterrand's early political career, "it was a pleasure to see him", the

former President told M Péan. But he later added that he would be deeply hurt if he thought the French people believed he had known the full extent of Bousquet's record.

Serge Klarsfeld, the president of The Sons and Daughters of Deported French Jews, described Mitterrand's continued relationship with Bousquet as "morally condemnable". Even Nobel laureate Elie Wiesel, a close friend of the President, should have known better than to socialise for 40 years with such a tainted individual.

Mitterrand's decision to co-operate with M Péan was seen by some as an honest attempt to set the record straight as his death approached. To others, it was evidence of a guilty conscience.

It may be characteristic of the man that, although he served in the Vichy government, when he changed sides in 1943 and joined the Resistance he did so wholeheartedly and served with remarkable bravery.

The row that erupted over his Vichy past may have surprised Mitterrand. He did not believe in moral absolutes and insisted life was never a question of black and white but, in his own words, "light grey and dark grey".

If that were so, Mitterrand's Vichy years were still among the darkest shades of grey.

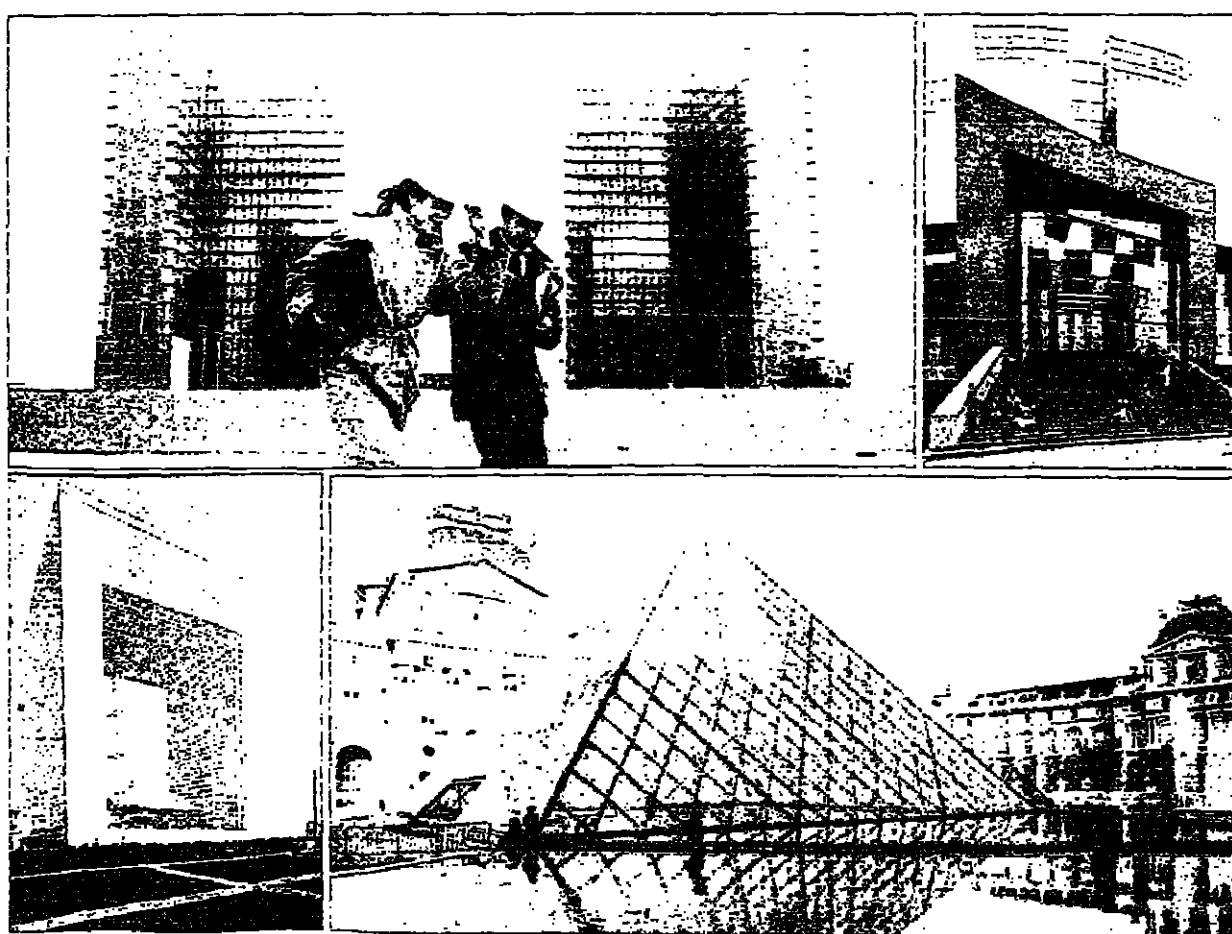
### ARCHITECTURE

and his understanding of architecture's political power.

The glass pyramid at the Louvre was an architectural gambit of enormous chutzpah. But it has worked, and the pyramid, with its vast network of public space beneath, is one of the city's most popular buildings.

Parisians have come to appreciate, if not to love, the Grande Arche, a 30-storey rectangle of concrete designed by Otto von Spreckelsen. More than half the cost was financed by the late Robert Maxwell, who also understood a grand gesture.

The costly Opéra Bastille has fewer admirers. Construction was accelerated to allow Mitterrand to preside over



Skyline landmarks, clockwise from top left: the National Library, dominated by four towers representing open books; the Opéra Bastille; the Louvre's glass pyramid, designed by I. M. Pei; Mitterrand's choice; and the Grande Arche



# Family was at side of French leader for his 'serene' last moments



Presidential route: a campaign poster, left, for François Mitterrand in November 1965 offers his fellow countrymen "a young President for a modern France"; in May 1974, his wife Danielle beside him, he makes another attempt for France's highest office. Finally, ambition fulfilled, the President walks through Chateau Chignon after casting his vote in the first round of the parliamentary elections in March 1993

## Kohl mourns 'a good friend'

FROM ROGER BOYES  
IN BONN

HELMUT KOHL, the German Chancellor, yesterday sent an unusually heartfelt message of condolence to Danielle Mitterrand, declaring: "I mourn a good friend."

The German leader was speaking no less than the truth for, despite Mitterrand's initial reservations about German unity, the late President was emotionally attached to Herr Kohl, to Germany and to a joint vision of Europe.

Herr Kohl has, in fact, been mourning Mitterrand for more than six months. Franco-German relations under

### GERMANY

President Chirac have skidded downhill. The Chancellor was quick to point out yesterday that something of Mitterrand remains: "His political vision of a united Europe will give us strength and spur us on in the future."

The Franco-German consensus built by the two is crumbling, however. It is difficult to talk nowadays of a "special relationship" between Paris and Bonn since the sum of differences and individual frictions have made a nonsense of claims to be a joint European "engine".

Mitterrand's farewell to Germany was delivered in Berlin at last year's celebrations marking the fiftieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War. Unlike John Major's more stilled speech about a new age of reason, the former French President's rather rambling reminiscences moved Herr Kohl to tears.

The French leader spoke movingly of befriending German soldiers, and the slightly out-of-place speech delivered by an obviously sick and fragile man drew fierce criticism in France. In Germany, however, it was taken at face value. Mitterrand was registering the fact that the Germans and the French were connected by split blood.

## How a 'good death' was ensured

FROM KATE MUIR IN PARIS

FRANÇOIS MITTERRAND was not just preoccupied with dying; he wanted to die well.

Soon after he discovered his prostate cancer was incurable, he took steps to prepare himself. He started to see his death not as a moment to fear, but as the final resounding line in a singular life.

Thus, it is not surprising that his close friends said Mitterrand was "very serene" in the final moments of his life yesterday morning. He died in his Paris apartment, attended by his personal doctor, his wife Danielle and two sons nearby.

Mitterrand had been more aware than most of his own mortality, once saying: "Death can transform a human being into what he was called to become."

But in the past two years, he began to read and think a great deal about the subject. He consulted Marie de Hennezel, a psychologist. They met during an official tour of her hospice. Through letters, dinner conversations and retreats to her country home, their friendship developed, as did the com-

plexities of their debate about life and death.

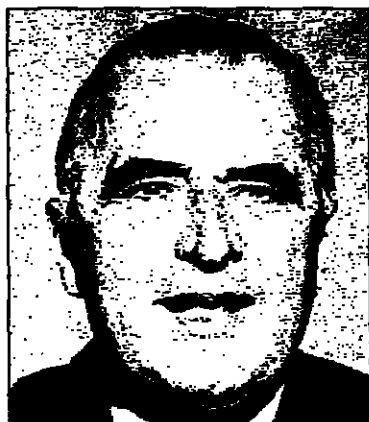
Mitterrand wrote the foreword last year to Mme de Hennezel's bestseller, *La Mort Intime*. "How to die?" asked the former President. "We live in a world which is frightened by such a question: a world which avoids even asking it."

Over dinner, he once told Mme de Hennezel: "We are each on a plane journey which will end one day by crashing into a mountain. Most people forget that."

"Myself, I think about it every day, but perhaps that is because I have begun to catch a glimpse of the mountain through the plane window."

By talking publicly about his illness, Mitterrand hoped to take death out of the closet, and pledged to help to end the modern "deficient relationship with death in this hurried existence".

Unlike one of his predecessors at the Elysée Palace, Georges Pompidou, who allowed rumours about his illness to blots and was said to have flu the day he died of cancer, Mitterrand was absolutely honest with his country-



Pompidou was said to have flu on the day he died of cancer

about his health. Mme de Hennezel said that, although Mitterrand was basically an agnostic, her conversations with him often took a mystical turn, and he did not believe that precluded having religious feelings or a curiosity about an afterlife.

The psychologist also said that he had more time to think after leaving

the presidency: "As people face death, they need to be true to themselves, to drop masks, to stick to the essentials."

Mitterrand had dropped a number of masks in his last few years, co-operating with a biographer who revealed his role in the Vichy regime, and being photographed publicly with his 20-year-old illegitimate daughter, Mazarine.

Last year the Mitterrands purchased a grave site on Mont Beuvray near Chateau-Chignon in central France, where Mitterrand was once mayor. The site is also where France's hero Vergingetorix rallied the Gauls against the Romans. It met some criticism as a grandiose choice.

Mme Mitterrand wanted them to be buried together at Mont Beuvray, but clearly her husband's wishes have prevailed. He has insisted on being buried in his family tomb at Jarnac, near Cognac in western France, in a quiet family funeral with no political oration — similar to the request made by General de Gaulle.

As for an epitaph, Mitterrand once suggested his should be the same as Willy Brandt, the former German Chancellor: "I did what I could."

## The loyal wife who coped with affair

BY KATE MUIR

DANIELLE MITTERRAND has been fighting her own battle against serious illness. "I ought to have died a year ago," she told *Paris Match* magazine recently, citing her heart problems, temporarily solved by a mechanical valve and a pacemaker.

In the past few months, Mme Mitterrand, 71, has been constantly by the side of her husband of 51 years, standing by while he caught his breath on short walks, and taking him on a family trip for Christmas to Egypt.

After years of political flummeling, she made a request that the outside world should give them "a little peace and serenity" during their last months together. Danielle Gouze married Mitterrand in 1944 when she was 20, and he had left the Vichy regime to work for the Resistance. They

had two sons, Jean-Christophe and Gilbert. From early on, they were a political couple, espousing the same socialist views. Three years after they married, Mitterrand became the Fourth Republic's youngest minister.

In some ways, Mitterrand is his long-time mistress, Anne Pinget, mother of his illegitimate daughter Mazarine. The relationship was revealed in 1994 in the French press, along with pictures of Mitterrand and his student daughter leaving a restaurant and walking together.

It was also revealed that Mazarine and her mother — a curator at Musée d'Orsay — had been provided with accommodation and security protection. Mme Mitterrand, when asked about the affair, said simply: "We coped."

## Chirac's predecessor left legacy of domestic woes

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

JACQUES CHIRAC was quick to pay tribute to his predecessor yesterday. But the death of François Mitterrand could hardly have come at a worse time for the Gaullist President as he struggles to reassert his authority amid a host of problems, many bequeathed by the Mitterrand years.

Mitterrand's drive for European monetary union, his backing for the Maastricht treaty and support for expensive social welfare programmes lie at the root of last month's crippling strikes. With militant unions threatening more stoppages in the coming weeks, M Chirac's praise for the "great figure" that preceded him will be tempered by the knowledge that many of his difficulties can be laid at the late President's door.

Despite Mitterrand's 1993 conversion to fiscal orthodoxy and a promise in 1981 to reduce unemployment, the jobless rate almost doubled, while the national debt trebled and France became more wedded to the lavish and indebted social security system.

But it is the Maastricht timetable for monetary union, requiring drastic debt reduction, that may be Mitterrand's most problematic legacy to his successor. Mitterrand set France rattling along the road to monetary union without tackling the burgeoning problem of state overspending. M Chirac has now declared deficit reduction

to be his "priority of priorities", but even among the ranks of the ruling party there are growing fears that France, her economy slowing, may not be able to meet the Maastricht deadline.

The Government's efforts to overhaul the indebted welfare

### FRANCE

system and rail network prompted the worst strikes in France for a decade. These ended just before Christmas, but at a huge cost to the French economy.

This week, M Chirac announced that he would visit the French provinces in a bid to recapture some of the enthusiasm that brought him to power. But with Mitterrand's death, these plans are



Chirac struggling to reassert authority

likely to be shelved as newspapers and television screens are given over to remembering Tonton, or Uncle, as the former President was known.

In Gaullist circles, however, the reminiscences are likely to be muted by the belief that Mitterrand left behind a time-bomb in the shape of a bloated public debt.

Any hope M Chirac might have had of using the end of the strikes and the start of a new year to revitalise his presidency has been scuppered by the timing of M Mitterrand's death.

After M Chirac's election, in relations between the two were cool. But apart from attacking the President's decision to resume nuclear testing, Mitterrand avoided overt criticism of his successor.

When Jacques Attali, one of M Mitterrand's top aides, quoted his former boss as saying of M Chirac "he may get elected after me, but he would soon be the laughing stock of the world", the former President diplomatically denied saying any such thing.

M Chirac was elected by promising to end old-style politics, mend France's "social fractures", reduce taxes and cut employment. Instead, faced with the contradictions and impossibilities of implementing the full range of pledges in post-Mitterrand France, M Chirac has opted for deficit reduction. Taxes and unemployment are up and M Chirac's popularity remains at rock bottom.

## Village funeral follows example of de Gaulle

FROM ADAM SAGE  
IN PARIS

IN LIFE, François Mitterrand rarely failed to compare himself with the founder of the Fifth Republic, Charles de Gaulle. In death, the comparison remains striking.

Long before he died on November 9, 1970, de Gaulle told the man who was to become his successor, Georges Pompidou, that he wanted the simplest of funerals. "The men and the women of France and other countries can, if they so wish, pay homage to my memory by accompanying my body to its last resting place," de Gaulle wrote. "But it is in silence that I wish it to be carried out."

His wish was fulfilled. De Gaulle was buried in his village of Colombey-les-Deux-Églises in east France in the presence of friends and family. The politicians he held in such contempt were absent.

A state ceremony was held at Notre Dame cathedral in the French capital, where Mass was said before an "impressive gathering of heads of state and royalty", according to the historian, Arnaud Teyssier.

M Mitterrand's funeral on Thursday looks certain to follow a similar pattern. He will be buried in the village in which he was born 79 years ago, Jarnac, near Angoulême, in the rural southwest. According to associates of the former

President, the religious ceremony will be "intimate", with only family and close friends present. As with de Gaulle's burial 25 years ago, there will be no political speeches. M Mitterrand will be buried in the tomb that holds his parents and maternal grandparents.

The funeral will be in the church, St-Pierre-de-Jarnac, where M Mitterrand was baptised. The short journey to the village ceremony will take the coffin past the house in which he was born.

At the same time in Paris, those wanting to pay their last respects to the country's first Socialist President will be invited to a public meeting. A ceremony will be held at Notre Dame at which world leaders will be present.

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## Day 2 of our series on ageing: Problems men face in middle age...

■ What's the truth about men growing older? Below, Dr Thomas Stuttaford explodes the myth of the "three-times-a-night" men and explains how to restore sexual vigour, and Alan Coren comes clean about the more unnerving aspects of ageing

■ Opposite, we look at the importance of nutrition, and offer a guide to foods that can keep you in the peak of condition



THE SCIENCE of AGELESS AGEING

- Use it or lose it — how the brain ages, and making the most of your memory, by psychologist Ian Robertson**
- Why a low fat diet is not the best way to beat cholesterol, by Nigel Hawkes**
- Dr Thomas Stuttaford explains why older women may enjoy an enhanced sex drive**



A young man will be as willing for sex as his partner is, but male desire and ability diminish with age: medical science is working on a solution

## Men can recapture the passion of youth

### MEN AND SEX

Sexual behaviour is determined by hormones secreted by the pituitary gland lying beneath the brain, the testes and ovaries. But the glands wear out, and the days of plenty in youth are replaced by the lean years of middle and old age. Sex provides a piquancy to life — it is part of the social dynamic — and men yearn to retain their prowess.

One of the more accurate research surveys on sex was done in the mid-1970s, when a large number of people replied to questions posed on a computer screen rather than asked by a doctor. The survey revealed rather depressing figures. Of marriages which had lasted for more than 20 years, one in four had virtually no active sex life. In the same age group, even when there was a continuing active sex life, one attempt in four at sexual intercourse ended in failure. Perhaps the reassuring news was that the frequency of sexual activity bore no apparent relationship to the happiness of the marriage.

Research published in the *American Journal of Psychiatry* 20 years ago on sexual behaviour in middle age quantified the sexual life of men, and gave the lie to locker-room boasts and saloon-bar chat.

Between the ages of 46 and 56, 62 per cent of men were still capable of sex once a week, and even by the time they reached the age group 66-

71, 26 per cent still had intercourse. But only 2 per cent over the age of 66 could manage sex twice a week, and none of those over 56 could manage it more than three times a week.

For men with a proven low testosterone level, a monthly injection of the hormone is now available which will provide about a fortnight's sexual vigour. A better answer would be to wear a patch, like the HRT patch worn by women, so that the man receives a regular low dose of testosterone to maintain normal levels. For the past year or so in America a transdermal delivery system has been available, but the special secretions of the scrotal skin were needed if the hormone was to be absorbed. In addition the unfortunate man had to wear a huge plaster, like a jockstrap, partners apparently found this off-putting. The scientists have now improved the formula and next year men will be able to wear two reasonably discreet patches.

Loss of libido is only one cause of failing potency. More often the spirit is willing, but the mechanism has failed naturally. Often the blood supply to the penis has been obstructed by narrowing of the vessels. In other cases the penis still has a blood supply strong enough to inflate the

three cylinders which, when engorged with blood, cause an erection, but unfortunately the valves to the cylinders leak and the erection is not maintained. Operations designed to correct this weakness have proved disappointing.

So long as the valves in the cavernosa are intact, and there is an adequate supply of blood, patients can now have an artificially induced erection with a virtually painless injection of Caverject. The technique, once learnt, is very simple and many of my patients have told me it produces a response the like of which they haven't experienced since their teenage years. Research is now well advanced into producing a pill which will produce the same effect as Caverject without the necessary injection, and other doctors are working on a cream which can be squeezed into the urethra.

Men may not be able to recapture the sexual desire of their youth, but in many cases it should soon be possible to restore sexual function. In the meanwhile, any man who finds himself impotent should first suspect the pills he may be taking for blood pressure, depression, heart failure, insomnia or anxiety — and secondly, consider his alcohol intake. Too much alcohol initially affects only immediate performance, but heavy persistent drinking can produce prolonged impotency.

# How I became 'differently young'

### THE OLDER MAN'S TALE

It seems like only last year in Marienbad, but it is in fact 30 years. It is 1965, and I am driving to Marienbad from Carlsbad, in a bright red Austin-Healey 3000, and the hood is down because the sun is hot. But the sun is about to go in, and when it does, two things will happen, which, though they are similar to one another, are also so different from one

another that they will constitute a watershed in my life. The two things are that the rain will begin to fall, and that the rain will begin to land.

When the first happened, I didn't put the hood up, because I was only a mile or two from Marienbad and didn't want to stop, and I was

young and didn't mind a few drops of rain. Until the second thing happened. When the second thing happened, I realised I was no longer young. Because, hitherto, the rain had always fallen on my hair, but that day, it did not fall on my hair, it fell on my scalp. Clearly, my hair had done

some falling of its own, but I had never been aware of it before. I had never felt the patter on my skin. I was 27, and it was borne in upon me, for the first time, that I was ageing. For the rest of my life, raindrops would be falling on my head.

Now let us deconstruct that anecdote, so that we may elicit a little more about the ageing process. The two film references were to *Last Year in Marienbad* and *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*.

You will all have seen the latter, but apart from film needs, only those of my age will have seen the former. It was very big, then. But were I to allude to it in conversation with the unaged, they would not know what I was talking about.

That is one of the most unnerving aspects of ageing: those younger than you who are, of course, increasing moment by moment, while those older than you are decreasing at about the same rate. Understand less and less of what you are saying — especially if your conversation is, like mine, freely planted with other men's flowers, for the very good reason that, as Wodehouse observed, "if it were not for quotations, conversation between gentlemen would consist of an endless succession of 'What-ho's'."

For those flowers age, too: withered by time, they grow less and less recognisable to more and more people, and this is true not merely of literary quotations, but of all references to ideas, people, buildings, plays, cars, food, music, what you will among all the unsettling aspects of age, few are more unsettling than in the course of what you feel to be an interesting matter with some young person, noticing their eyes suddenly glaze over at your mention of Herbert Morrison, or U.D.I. or scarlet fever, or *The Grove Family*, or *Side-sides*, or Dickie Valentine, or *HMS Amethyst*, or Monk & Glass custard, or Austin-Healeys.

I do not drive a two-seater now. I wish I could boast that I have outgrown them, but that would not be the truth. The truth is that I have outaged them. Ageing is about being irritable partly because the creaking new MGF has come



Alan Coren when he had more hair on his head and chin

ed since 1978, that it is a mistake to decriminalise consenting crackpots who wish to batter one another senseless with live eels in the privacy of their own lovestones? Might there not be just an outside chance that these actually are the purblind views of a reactionary old prat?

Are all these signifiers more significant than hair falling out? They are to me. I can



Today Alan Coren keeps his head dry under a hat

handle the physical stuff. The fashion for political correctness for whatever it is called, now that it may be called that only ironically has helped me here. It has enfranchised me to think of myself not as old but as differently young.

Considering myself, therefore, not to be physically deteriorating but merely to be continuing to mature, I refuse to make any concessions to corporal change. I do not, like Bobby Charlton or Robert Robinson, part my remaining hair just above the hip, sweep it across my scalp and fix it there with Bostik. I cry "Baldness be my friend!" and shave the dome. Nor would I dream of rugging it or having it surgically reafforested with pubic tufts, for little, surely, can be more ageing than struggling to appear unaged, and seeing pity (or worse) well up in eyes that are trying not to peer at your new fake head.

As for all the anatomical clobber depending from the dome, it is kept in reasonable nick by exercise designed to maximise self-esteem: I can still bench-press the weights I could lift at 20, but would never dream of timing myself over 200 yards, and not simply because this would now be an offence under EU regulations, rendering me liable to a fine of up to £3,000.

I put that in to show that I am not afraid of making jokes

about metrication. Saying you do not understand decimal innovations is ageing, but taking the mickey out of them is childish. Sorry, taking the mickey out of them, nearly gave the game away there.

As for physical activities involving others, the maturing athlete must exercise extreme care not to exercise with extreme care. There is, for example, a crucial moment in his tennis career when a player has to choose between continuing to play as he has always played, ie, with all the energy he can muster, and opting instead for precision, cunning, and gamesmanship. The latter is a big mistake: not only is hurling yourself about the court and going for every shot healthier both for body and for amour-propre, it is the best excuse there is for losing to those younger than you.

You can say you are having an off-day, probably because of a heavy night, nudge-wink-chortle. At the very worst, your opponent will conclude that you must have been a terrific player, once he will not know that you have never hit a successful running cross-court backhand in your entire life. If, however, you just amble up and down the baseline waiting to embarrass him with a cissy lob, he will conclude only that you are a clapped-out fart who was probably never any good anyway.

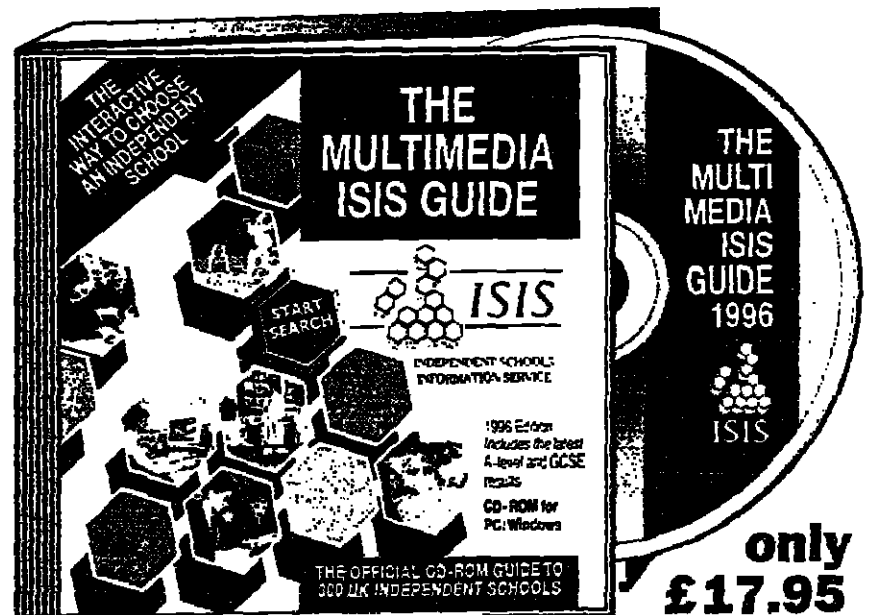
So? I sense you want me to talk about sex. I do not intend to do this on my own behalf, but if the differently young among you are looking for a tip, exactly the same tactics apply as to tennis.

Let us therefore put our clothes back on. How do we look? Not too bad, with any luck, provided we have had the good sense not to reach for a Michelob baseball cap, or a Junior Gaultier waistcoat, or a Perfecto zippered leather blouson, or Fila trainers, or anything else you have to ring up your kids about to find out what the in-your-face young are wearing, or were ten minutes ago when in-your-face was still an au courant fashion statement, but have slipped instead into a well-made three-piece whistle. Ageless, that. Even young tongues hang out, these days, for a Savile Row suit.

Or so they tell me. They may, of course, just be trying to humiliate an old man. It's hard to tell, if you're not one.

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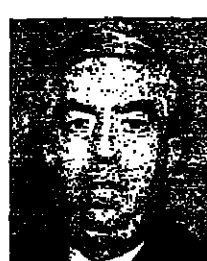
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## ARTS 31-33

Peter Flannery's political epic finally gets to TV



## LAW 35-37

Speaking out: David Penry-Davey, QC, Bar chairman



## SPORT 39-44

Lynagh signs three-year deal with Saracens

VILLAGE SUCCESS STORY  
Small business 30

# THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

TUESDAY JANUARY 9 1996

## Consumer spending surge 'could trigger 8% base rates'

By ROSS TIEMAN  
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

A SURGE in consumer spending during the second half of this year could trigger base rates as high as 8 per cent in 1997, the latest year in which the Government must hold an election, according to the Ernst & Young ITEM Club.

In a new forecast using the Treasury's economic model, the ITEM Club says that tax cuts and cash windfalls from building society sales, maturing "Pess" savings accounts, and the National Grid rebate for electricity customers could cause consumer spending to grow at an annualised rate of 3.5 per cent during the second half. That

would delight retailers and rescue the economy from its present slowdown. But a consumer spending boom could quickly rekindle inflation, the forecasters say. Wage growth would accelerate to unsustainable levels. "This would demand much higher interest rates, possibly as high as 8 per cent, in order to arrest the inflation threat this would pose."

Overall, the ITEM forecasters predict economic growth of 2.5 per cent this year, down from an expected 2.8 per cent in 1995 and 3.9 per cent in 1994. Consumer spending growth, however, is expected to rise from a mere 1.8 per cent in 1995 to 2.5 per cent in 1996.

The predictions, from one of Britain's

most respected forecasting groups, are tempered by a warning that declining demand in Britain's main export markets, combined with weakness in the domestic economy, could lead to a second doomsday scenario for the Government.

Manufacturers have already embarked on an extensive round of destocking, the forecasters note. "By cutting employment and investment, UK companies could lead to growth as weak as 1.5 per cent this year. Under this alternative scenario, unemployment would begin rising towards 2.5 million by mid 1997."

ITEM's central forecast, however, is broadly optimistic in the prospects for inflation. Made cautious by continued

feelings of insecurity, consumers are expected to increase their savings during the first half. "Such a favourable outlook for inflation will pave the way for further interest rate cuts during the first half of 1996, which could take base rates to 5.75 per cent by the end of spring."

But because of the looming election, ministerial forecasts of a 1 per cent fall in government spending are unlikely to be fulfilled, the ITEM economists believe. "Much depends upon the likelihood of the Government adhering to its 1995 Budget expenditure plans," the forecasters say. "Under ITEM assumptions, public spending is expected to overshoot the 1995 Budget plans by 1.5 per cent in real terms, by rising 0.5 per cent." That

would leave government finances in trouble by the time of the November Budget. Ministers might have to choose between further spending cuts or tax increases. "Should the next Budget fall before the general election, this would provide an enormous political obstacle for the present Government," the economists say.

Paul Droop, chief economist of the ITEM Club, said firms should note the impending shift growth mix. Exporters would experience more modest demand from European markets, while those oriented to the domestic economy would gain from strengthening consumer spending.

Growth eases, page 24

### BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKETS	INDICES
FT-SE 100	3720.5 (+16.1)
Yield	3.85%
FT-SE A All share	1821.21 (+6.82)
Nikkei	20562.59 (-105.45)
Dow Jones	5291.30 (+19.87)
S&P Composite	517.43 (+0.72)

US RATE	
Federal Funds	5.50% (5.50%)
Long Bond	111.11% (111.11%)
Yield	6.04% (6.04%)

LONDON MONEY	
3-month Interbank	6.14% (6.14%)
Life long call	110.10 (110.10)
Future (Mar)	

STERLING	
New York	1.5506* (1.5525)
London	
\$	1.5507 (1.5525)
DM	2.2331 (2.2342)
FF	7.8540 (7.8540)
SP	1.8039 (1.8011)
Yen	163.45 (162.87)
£ Index	83.4 (83.5)

DOLLAR	
London	
DM	1.4400* (1.4395)
FF	1.1630* (1.1615)
Yen	105.35* (105.35)
£ Index	94.7 (94.4)

TOKYO	
3-month Interbank	6.14% (6.14%)
Life long call	110.10 (110.10)
Future (Mar)	

MONTHLY SEA OIL	
Brent 15-day (Mar)	\$18.55 (\$18.45)

GOLD	
London close	\$396.60 (\$396.25)
	* denotes midday trading price

London:  
DM 1.4400\* (1.4395)

FFr	4.9385*	(4.9265)
SFr	1.1630*	(1.1615)
Yen	105.35*	(105.35)
£ London	84.7	(84.4)

### Court blow for life firms

## Investors win right to sue for mis-selling

By ROBERT MILLER

PENSION companies face an additional compensation bill for mis-selling personal pensions running into tens of millions of pounds after a judge yesterday gave nurses and public sector workers the green light to sue through the courts.

The ruling is expected to push the personal pension industry's estimated costs and compensation bill to well over £4 billion.

Judge Raymond Jack, QC, sitting at the Bristol Mercantile Court, dismissed applications for a stay of proceedings brought by five of the UK's largest life offices and ordered the Prudential, Hill Samuel, TSB, GAN Life and Irish Life to pay the costs of the case.

The five pension companies, which were also refused leave

to appeal, wanted cases of alleged personal pensions mis-selling to be handled by the special review system set up by the Securities and Investments Board, the chief City watchdog, and not by the courts.

Ringrose Wharton, the law firm acting for members of the Royal College of Nursing and the GMB general union, which has issued 50 writs claiming compensation ranging from £5,000 to over £100,000, argued that many investors did not want to be bound by the SIB review's timetable.

Bill Day, pensions officer at the GMB, welcomed yesterday's landmark court ruling. He said that the potential compensation bill for just 50 writs issued on behalf of GMB members could top £1 million and hundreds more cases are in the pipeline. He added: "The Government, which was so active in promoting personal pensions in the late 1980s, should now spend as much money as they did then on telling hundreds of thousands of possibly confused investors about their rights to take legal action if they want to."

"The Government should also insist that the regulators force pension companies to offer investors the right to free independent advice to ensure that any compensation settlement they are offered is fair."

Richard Bernhard, director of legal services at the Royal College of Nursing, said: "The judgment seems to have confirmed our view that independent advice should be offered to our members where it is found that they have been let down by bad advice and that the costs of putting that situa-

tion right, including the advice, should be paid for by the pension provider."

"We want our members restored to the NHS Pension Scheme, which is a very, very good one. It offers members inflation-proofed pensions with employer contributions, life cover and is linked to final salaries and based on the number of years worked."

The Prudential, Britain's largest insurer, and the TSB, now part of the Lloyds Bank group, said that they were "disappointed" at the court ruling and would consider the judgment in some detail before deciding whether to seek leave to take the judge's ruling to the Court of Appeal.

The Prudential said: "Our concern remains that, if a large number of investors decide to issue proceedings against pension providers, then those pension providers' resources, which should be directed towards carrying out the SIB review, will have to be diverted to deal with the litigation. Accordingly we shall keep this aspect under review in case the scale of litigation exceeds that contemplated by the judge."

Philip Ryley of Ringrose Wharton said: "In our view life companies are inviting court actions if they continue to refuse to settle reasonable costs of an independent investigation in each case. It is the investor who may have been badly advised by a life company and it is the investor who should be totally satisfied that his or her pension arrangements have been fully redressed."

City watchdogs said that the court ruling should not affect the SIB's personal pension mis-selling review.



Clara Freeman hopes her promotion will be an encouragement to other women

### Freeman joins M&S board

By SARAH BAGNALL

MARKS & SPENCER, Britain's leading retailer, has appointed its first woman to the board as an executive director. Clara Freeman, 43, joins the 17-strong executive board and is responsible for personnel.

Mrs Freeman, who has been head of personnel for the past year, will be M&S's youngest executive director. She joined the company as a graduate trainee after reading history at Somerville, Oxford.

During her 21 years with the retailer, Mrs Freeman has worked in a variety of areas, including buying. M&S has more than 60,000 employees and about 75 per cent of its customers are women.

Recent statistics showed that women make up nearly half the UK workforce, but only 3 per cent were directors. Women tend to appear in areas such as personnel and marketing, rather than research and development and production.

Mrs Freeman said she was honoured by the elevation, which she hoped would encourage other women. "I hope that I got the job because I'm the best person for it, not because I'm a woman," she said.

Her husband is a co-founder of Argent Group, a property company that floated in 1994, and they have two young children.

### Price cutting lifts shop sales

By PATRICIA TEHAN

FURTHER evidence of a pick up in confidence on the high street comes today with figures showing higher sales — but sales achieved at the cost of widespread price cutting.

The British Retail Consortium's retail sales monitor for December shows an annual increase in like-for-like value of retail sales of 4.3 per cent. This compares with a 3.2 per cent annual increase in November and a 2.4 per cent rise in October.

The figures also show an increase in the underlying growth trend, with average sales growth of 3.3 per cent in the past three months, compared with 3 per cent in the period from September to November.

The food and drink sector performed well and sales of personal computers were also strong last month. Retailers reported successful post-Christmas sales after a mixed start because of weather problems. The furniture and carpets sector suffered most from the lack of movement in housing and the do-it-yourself sector was flat.

Andrew Higginson, chairman of the consortium's economic affairs committee, said: "We now need to see this improvement maintained into the new year and for any recovery to be seen more widely across the retail sectors."

Credit growth eases, page 24

### Granada 'must raise bid 15%'

By ERIC REGULY

GRANADA will have to raise its offer for Forte today by about 15 per cent, to between 375p and 380p a share, to give it a fair chance to overcome Forte's strong defence package, City analysts said.

But some analysts did not expect Granada to go that high and thought it would offer as little as 360p and argue that it could do a better job of managing Forte's broad collection of hotels and restaurants.

There is even a slim possibility that Granada will effectively abandon the chase by leaving its bid unchanged.

Granada gave no hints about what board decisions were made yesterday. The revised offer will be announced early today.

Goldman Sachs, the US investment firm, expects Granada to raise its offer to between 360p and 375p, while Strauss Turnbull Securities expects 375p. Kleinwort Benson last

week estimated Forte's break-up value at 380p, which suggests Granada will have to pitch its offer at a price higher than that if it hopes to tip the balance in its favour.

Most analysts said that Granada would have to increase the cash component of its bid. Its shares and cash bid was valued at 328p when the offer was launched in November. The all-cash alternative is worth 321.7p. Granada shares, which went ex-dividend yesterday, fell 4p to 643p, while Forte lost 1p to 344p.

Separately, Forte issued a writ against Henry Staunton, Granada's finance director, over remarks attributed to him in yesterday's edition of *The Times*. He was quoted as saying that Forte's defence document "was designed to mislead". Forte demanded an apology and "substantial" damages. Granada refused an apology.

### Seaboard takeover is cleared

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

THE takeover of Seaboard, the southeast electricity company, by Central and South West Corporation, the US utility, has been cleared by Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade.

Mr Lang, who last year surprised the City with the referral of bids from National Power and PowerGen, the generators, for regional electricity companies, passed the £1.6 billion agreed bid after the electricity regulator and the Director-General of Fair Trading said they had no objections.

After Mr Lang's approval, City attention may again focus on other US utilities with declared interests in UK electricity businesses. Houston Industries, which had teamed up with Central and South West for an abortive move on Norweb, is known to be still interested.

### Exchange rushes out reform plan

By PATRICIA TEHAN

THE Stock Exchange will open the debate over how to reform the way that shares are traded with a consultative paper on Friday.

The City's leading investment banks have made it clear to the Exchange that a system of choices over trading methods would be unworkable.

In the document the Exchange will outline alternatives for share trading and give market participants several weeks to submit responses. The document was planned for next week but, after the furore over the sacking of Michael Lawrence as chief executive, it is being rushed out this week.

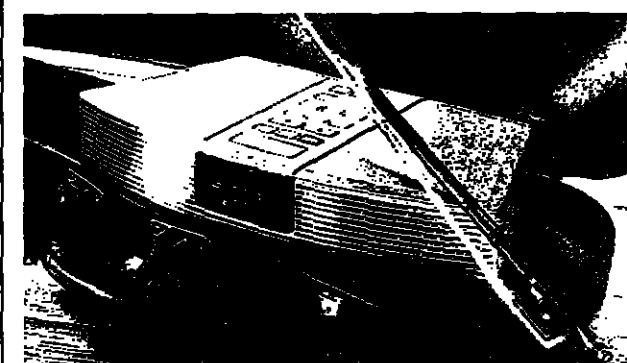
The consultation paper is the result of a decision taken at an Exchange board meeting in November to move towards a system of full electronic trading and order matching.

In the past the City's market-makers have objected to

such a system, arguing that the current quote-driven system ensures liquidity in the market and that this would disappear if an order-matching system were introduced.

At the November meeting the board saw a paper, prepared for Mr Lawrence, that showed the current system of market-making in the top 100 stocks was unprofitable. It showed that 17 per cent of the market value was already traded through an order book and that over 30 per cent of the volume of trading was already automated through order-routing systems.

Last night most market-makers said that objections to an order-matching system had been dropped. Their concerns were over the timing of its introduction. They also wanted to ensure that rules of trading using the new system would be in place before it came into operation.



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# Consumer credit growth eases

M0 growth was unrevised at 0.7 per cent in November.

short-term and gas-turbine peakers are often more costly than coal-fueled ones.



Actuaries weigh up disclosure choices □ A silly row over alcoholic fizz □ Nynex dials a wrong number

## Pensioning off the fat cats

FOR years, finance directors have been fooling investors by publishing financial data in so raw and esoteric a form that the accounts might as well have been printed in Minoan Linear B for all they contributed to open corporate governance.

Company balance sheets will probably have to continue in their current form for a while, alas. But the accountants have been working to produce a more transparent view of just what directors receive in the way of pension entitlements, to be taken into the Stock Exchange's listing requirements in due course.

At present, that chunk of the accounts dealing with what are archaically called directors' emoluments is clear enough on salary, often rather less clear on share options and clear as mud on pensions.

Under the Greenbury code, it would have to be quite transparent on the first two. The argument has been over the third, because there are any number of ways of expressing mathematically the value of any pension, only some of which are comprehensible to the lay or even the professional investor.

The Institute of Actuaries and the Faculty of Actuaries yesterday produced a consultation

document setting out a range of five possible methods of calculation and a tendency towards one. This is likely to be a preference shared by most institutional investors and abhorred by fat-cat directors.

Such actuarial arguments are not normally a matter for rioting in the streets. But pension calculations do make up a substantial portion of those huge payoffs and pay increases that we will hopefully be seeing less of in future. Cedric Brown, chairman of a £1 million pension, as duly set out in the British Gas accounts.

The actuaries tend towards a so-called transfer value method, which would show the actual amount the director's rights to benefits had risen by over the past year. This is transparent enough, and it has the added virtue of being utterly objective, understandable by all and providing an easy basis for comparison between companies. It does, however, throw up an

awful lot of fat cats, because salary increases towards the end of a director's career provide an enormous upwards kicker on the value of those rights. Directors naturally prefer a smoothed approach, whereby that increase is phased in over each of the remaining years of their careers.

Tough, investors are entitled to the clearest exposition possible of what they pay their employees, the directors. It is up to the latter to explain any mitigating circumstances to their shareholders' satisfaction.

### Entering into the spirit

ONE could understand the fuss, if they were bottling the stuff and selling it as Lucozade. But the largely artificial furore over alcoholic lemonade and its ilk has more to do with a drinks industry closing ranks against outsiders than any legitimate health concerns.

First, last night's *Panorama*. It

### PENNINGTON



dealt only tangentially with the subject of not-so-soft soft drinks and the young, but was more concerned to give us another Awful Warning about how much we all drink.

Second, the forthcoming Portman Group swipe at alcoholic lemonade. The Portman Group reckons to be the conscience of the drinks industry, and deeply troubled it is in this case. Of the seven largest drinks producers that make up the group, three are involved in alcoholic soft drinks and four are not, yet. The group is divided on the issue — odd, that. The favoured option is dropping the

term "alcoholic lemonade" in exchange for something less confusing to the young.

It is hard to imagine just what you see is what you get — lemonade with alcohol in it. If the bottles are confusing the tiny tots in their wanderings around the kitchen, however, that is a matter for the parents. The average teenager is perfectly aware of alcohol and its function — if alcoholic lemonade is being used as a foothold into the adult world of real drinking, then it is merely supplanting the traditional role of cider.

What we have here is a classic case of "Wish I'd thought of that — now let's try to stop it". Drinks groups have spent millions developing bland concoctions aimed squarely at young people. The last serious stab was the range of madly competing ciders that did for that particular market. Alcoholic lemonade was first introduced to Britain by a then tiny Australian drinks outfit, and only Bass so far here has

managed to get much more than a foot on the bandwagon.

Two things are certain: this year will see a lot more not-so-soft drinks running the gamut of fruit flavours from the big producers, and the crazy will shortly thereafter die the death.

### Blurred vision

THE claim that job losses at Nynex are to do with high costs rather than low demand looks like a distinction without a difference. Nynex's costs are too high because of an alarming shortfall between the confidence shown at the time of last year's flotation and the experience on the nation's doorsteps.

That experience was shared by the rest of the cable TV sector. The larger TeleWest announced a similar cost-cutting exercise at its key London South franchise in November. In cable, as in any other industry, low demand means costs have to fall. In the

US, for various historical reasons, take-up of homes where cable is offered has always run at about 65 per cent. The availability of good terrestrial channels and satellite meant those levels could never be reached in the UK, while the coming of digital TV will offer customers yet another option.

On flotation, Nynex and the rest talked in terms of a 40 per cent take-up, an expectation then lowered to 30 per cent. The actual figure is running at 20 per cent, with Nynex at the bottom of the pack. What has saved the cable operators has been higher demand for telephony services, and the defection of 50,000 customers a month from BT. This is not guaranteed to continue for ever.

### Margin of error

FEW expect this to be a record year for new issues, and McBride, one of a rash of venture capital cash-ins in 1995, has just shown why. When the company floated in July, much was made of the resilience of margins in own-label goods, in spite of market scepticism. Much has been heard since of falling margins, culminating in yesterday's warning and another 20 per cent off the share price.

## Lockheed boosts defence role with \$9.1bn Loral deal

By ROSS THEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE rapid consolidation of the United States defence industry took a leap forward when Lockheed Martin, the industry leader, announced the \$9.1 billion purchase of Loral's defence business, whose activities include the manufacture of Patriot anti-missile missiles.

At the same time, Lockheed will invest \$344 million to acquire a stake in Loral's other main businesses, which will be packaged in a new company, Loral Space and Communications.

The deals, which require regulatory approvals in the United States and Europe, will add to pressure for consolidation of Europe's fragmented defence industry. Although market forces have already led to a wide restructuring of Britain's arms industry, incompatible government policies have largely frustrated industrialists' ambitions to deepen cross-border collaboration in a drive to match the

economies of scale enjoyed by their American rivals.

Lockheed Martin became the world's biggest defence company last year after the merger of Lockheed and Martin Marietta. Adding Loral's activities will lift annual sales to \$30 billion. The combined business will have an order backlog of \$47 billion.

The deals will unite two of the most successful companies in the defence electronics industry, offering skills ranging from systems integration to command, control and communications. Loral already embraces the defence activities of the IBM and Unisys computer groups, acquired in takeovers.

It will be a leading supplier to the Ministry of Defence. Lockheed manufactures the C-130 transport plane used by the Royal Air Force, while Loral has been involved in systems for Britain's nuclear submarines and helicopters. Loral is also teamed with

British Aerospace in the £1.5 billion competition to upgrade the RAF's Nimrod reconnaissance planes, while Lockheed is bidding its P3 Orion for the contract.

The merger comes hard on the heels of the announcement last week that Northrop Grumman, a diversified defence group formed by merger in 1994, is to acquire the Westinghouse defence businesses, focused on electronic systems, for \$3.6 billion.

Loral's shareholders will receive \$38 a share in cash, plus shares in the newly formed Loral Space and Communications Corporation. That company will own 31 per cent of the Nasdaq-listed Globalstar and 33 per cent of Space Systems/Loral, a satellite manufacturer with annual sales of \$1 billion.

In effect, Loral will be reduced to a satellite and communications business, with \$700 million of cash to develop those interests.

## Trinity wins orders in Far East

By PHILIP PANGALOS

TRINITY Holdings, maker of Dennis fire engines, Dart buses and refuse lorries, has won a host of Far East orders worth more than £30 million.

Joint contracts have been secured by Dennis Specialist Vehicles and Duple (Metsec) to supply three Hong Kong operators with double-deck buses worth £20 million.

Metsec has also won orders for a further 200 bus body kits to SBS, Singapore's leading operator. Other orders include fire-fighting vehicles for Hong Kong, refuse vehicles for Macau and airport tugs for China.

Steve Burton, chief executive, said: "We are continuing to make significant in-roads into overseas markets and these orders demonstrate the group's competitiveness in areas which are also targets for European, Japanese and US manufacturers."

Tempus, page 26



Steve Burton has escalated sales to the Far East

### Healthy Christmas pleases the market

## Tonic for Lloyd's Chemists

By SARAH BAGNALL

LOYD'S CHEMISTS, Britain's second biggest pharmacy chain, yesterday reported a healthy advance in sales over the Christmas period, helped by improved fortunes from each of its core operations.

After a slow start to the year, the retailer saw sales rise by 2.4 per cent in the second quarter, a period covering the three months to December 31. The advance was achieved in spite of a string of drugstore closures. Overall sales for the first half rose 2.1 per cent, to £562 million.

The City was pleased with the figures and in the stock

market the shares rose 10p, to 289p.

Allen Lloyd, chairman, said: "It is satisfactory to have achieved good growth in the second quarter, off-setting a relatively slow start to the year, and resulting in the first-half sales figures showing a positive advance."

The biggest growth in underlying sales was at Holland & Barrett, the group's healthcare chain.

Lloyd's said the chain lifted like-for-like sales 10.3 per cent in the second quarter of the year, compared with 3.4 per cent in the first quarter. Sales at Holland & Barrett in the first quarter were affected by

the hot weather, but the benefits of increased marketing and advertising spend began to pay off in the second quarter.

After a like-for-like sales advance of less than one per cent in the first quarter, the chemist chain lifted like-for-like sales by nearly six per cent in the second quarter. Trading over Christmas was in line with expectations, the company said.

The black spot remains the drugstore division, which is being restructured. Underlying sales fell 3.5 per cent in the second quarter, compared with a fall of 8.5 per cent in the first quarter.

## Redland issues warning

SHARES in Redland, the building materials company, dropped 7p to 38½p after it warned of a small drop in profits from last year's £388 million (Alasdair Murray writes).

Redland blamed weak markets in Europe and the UK for disappointing sales. UK sales for aggregates fell by between 7 and 13 per cent, and brick volumes declined by 14 per cent and concrete roof volumes by 4 per cent. However, Redland maintained higher

prices in most UK operations. The usual year-end shutdown of brick production was extended to cut stock.

In the important German market, a decline in housing starts reduced sales of concrete roof tiles by 10 per cent, but margins remained firm.

Redland also announced buying Colony Materials, a US aggregates company, for \$11 million. Redland's full-year results will be released at the end of March. Tempus, page 26

## Ellis expands overseas

ANOTHER independent US chemicals distributor yesterday went into the hands of Ellis & Everard, the Bradford distributor that has steadily been expanding its overseas operations (Christine Buckley writes).

Ellis bought George Mann for £4.1 million in a deal that also meant the assumption of £4 million in debt. The UK group, which has been refocusing its activities over the past two years, also bought Surphos Chemicals from

Albright & Wilson for £1.4 million. It is funding the moves with a placing of 4.18 million shares, which should raise £9.6 million. The acquisitions were announced on the back of half-year results that topped expectations.

Pre-tax profits at Ellis were 24 per cent ahead of the same period last year, at £13 million, on sales that were up 20 per cent to £293 million. The interim dividend, payable on March 8, rises 11 per cent to 3p. Tempus, page 26

W O R L D B U S I N E S S C L A S S



Pelham Crescent, Manchester

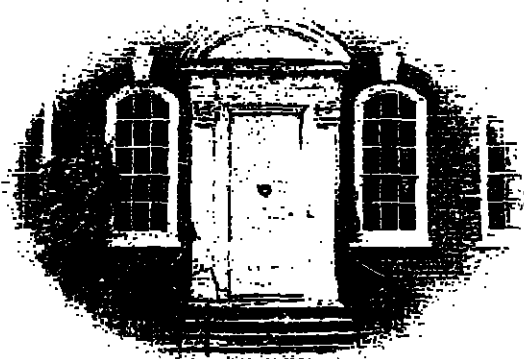


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0 1 2 9 3 5 6 1 0 0 0



after the Government gave the go-ahead for the £16 billion bid by Central and South West. C&SW received the necessary approval after giving the Government certain assurances. C&SW already owns almost 80 per cent of the shares.

**J Sainsbury** moved quickly to dismiss claims it is on the verge of issuing a profits

**Lloyds Chemists** responded to a favourable trading statement with a rise of 10p to 289p. The group said it had enjoyed sales growth in all its core businesses. On Thursday, it is the turn of **Boots**, up 14p to 594p, with the market looking for positive news on trading during the busy Christmas period. **Storehouse**, unchanged at 332p, and **Next**, 4p better at 450p, are also expected to be upbeat about recent trading when they issue trading statements this week. **Seeboard** hardened 5p to 532p.

The graph displays two data series over a 12-month period from January to December. The y-axis represents the price index, ranging from 160 to 250. The x-axis represents the months of the year. The 'Share price' (Allders) starts at approximately 210 in January, rises to a peak of about 245 in May, then drops sharply to around 170 by September, and recovers to about 185 by December. The 'FT-SE all-share price index (rebased)' starts at approximately 210 in January, rises to a peak of about 245 in May, then drops sharply to around 170 by September, and recovers to about 185 by December.

Month	Share price (Allders)	FT-SE all-share price index (rebased)
Jan	210	210
Feb	215	215
Mar	220	220
Apr	230	230
May	245	245
Jun	235	235
Jul	225	225
Aug	215	215
Sep	170	170
Oct	175	175
Nov	180	180
Dec	185	185

Source: INQUIREM

series of the long gilt closed just a tick better at £108½, with just 24,000 contracts completed. In the cash market, falls were recorded at the shorter end where Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was £1½ easier at £104½<sup>32</sup>, while, at the longer end, Treasury 8 per cent 2013 firmed three ticks to £101<sup>29</sup>/<sub>32</sub>.

□ **NEW YORK: Industrials** were strong at midday, lifted by gains in Boeing and energy shares and a move into cyclical issues. The Dow Jones industrial average was up 19.87 at 5,201.30.

Hamd Energy .....	437p (+30p)
Marco Focus .....	588p (+35p)
Weir .....	222p (+13p)
Stoves .....	285p (+13p)
Ellis & Eversard .....	267p (+12p)
Church .....	395p (+17p)
Time Products .....	271p (+1p)
Lloyds Chem .....	289p (+10p)
TT Group .....	298p (+10p)
<b>FALLS:</b>	
McBride .....	148p (-37p)
Shield Dig .....	135p (-17p)
Accorn Comp .....	212p (-25p)
Frost Group .....	173p (-19p)
Whitman .....	385p (-40p)
Treat .....	329p (-18p)
Hardy Hanson .....	319p (-12p)

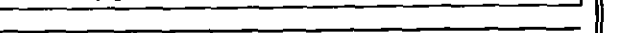
**Closing Prices Page 2B**

already apparent. Shareholders were made aware that under Lloyd's three-year accounting system they would see no underwriting returns until summer 1997. However, the expected returns are now less than originally forecast because the companies are being required to contribute to Lloyd's restructuring.

Increased competition has eroded the market's profitability since its peak in 1993. The last two years are expect-

**Ellis & Everard**  
 MF Ellis & Everard were a shopper it would be the type served at this time of the year: one that pops into a shop awash with promotional gimmicks but carefully selects an item that will fit well with an existing wardrobe and last for years.  
 The chemicals distributor

Volumes for Ellis showed a slight tilt downwards towards the end of the year and the fears of a more fundamental slump in chemicals have justified it will find its prospects further curbed. But overall the company is developing organically, improving underlying volumes modestly and by acquisition with a wide geographical strategy. It may not achieve outstanding performance but investors can expect growth from solid foundations.

[illegible]

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[illegible]

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[illegible]

Trial	Control (%)	MCI (%)	AD (%)
1	95	85	75
2	95	85	75
3	95	80	70
4	95	78	68
5	95	75	65

[illegible]

## DOLLAR R

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sell	Vol
FTSE 100	Mar 96	3740.0	3760.0	3732.0	3740.0	5979
Previous open interest: 4277	Jun 96				3725.0	0
FTSE 250	Mar 96				4000.0	0
Previous open interest: 2112	Jun 96				0	0
Three Month Sterling	Mar 96	91.71	91.71	93.67	138.60	11600
Previous open interest: 14799	Jun 96	93.81	93.81	93.07	13.78	7620
	Jun 96	93.78	93.78	92.76	92.76	0
Three Mth Eurodollar	Mar 96				64.94	0
Previous open interest: 0						
Three Mth Euro DM	Mar 96	96.45	96.46	96.43	96.43	6470
Previous open interest: 97230	Jun 96	96.56			96.53	8254
London Gold	Mar 96	1108.0	1109.4	1108.0	1108.0	2364
Previous open interest: 19144	Jun 96	1106.20	1106.10	1106.20	1106.20	4
Japanese Govt Bond	Mar 96	119.03	119.14	118.98	119.01	1703
	Jun 96				117.80	0
German Govt Bond	Mar 96	90.65	90.77	90.45	90.61	9641
Previous open interest: 14620	Jun 96	90.65	90.62	90.48	90.48	1073
Three month ECU	Mar 96	96.07	96.07	95.93	95.93	95
Previous open interest: 1506	Jun 96	96.17	96.17	95.85	95.85	15
Euro Swiss Franc	Mar 96	98.27	98.27	98.24	98.25	2179
Previous open interest: 4625	Jun 96	98.32	98.32	98.17	98.17	1971
Italian Govt Bond	Mar 96	109.40	109.40	109.19	109.42	2725
Previous open interest: 1699	Jun 96	109.80	109.80	109.63	109.67	226

MONEY RATES (%)	
Base Rates	Clearing Banks 6% Finance Mgt 7%

OTHER STERLING	
Argentina peso	1.5691-5519
Australia dollar	2.0745-2.0781
Baharin dollar	0.5783-0.5786
Brazil cruzeiro	1.3317-1.3320
China yuan	1.0000 RMB
Cyprus pound	0.0000-0.7100
Frank mark	2.4975-2.5000
Greeces drachma	363.90-370.50
India rupee	46.97-47.00
Indonesia rupiah	54.61-55.57
Iran rial	381.00-388.00
Iran rial SD	0.4999-0.4999
Malaysia ringgit	3.9629-3.9630
New Zealand dollar	1.3317-1.3320

Saudi Arabia riyal .....  
Singapore dollar .....  
E. African shilling (new)

[illegible]

BAC	1.000	Re
BA	2.700	Re

Bullion Open 5:00 PM EST	Close 5:29 PM EST	High 5:29 PM EST
Low 5:00 PM EST	AMT 5:00 PM	PM 5:29 PM
Kruggerland 5:00 PM EST	CLOSE 5:29 PM EST	
Minimum 5:00 PM EST	Silver: \$51.52 (\$1.555)	Palladium: \$1307.00 (+4.34)

STERLING SPOT & FORWARD RATES

	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Australia	2.9792-2.9825	2.9802-2.9824	1-10P	1-11P
Brazil	45.40-45.42	45.40-45.42	1-10P	1-11P
Canada	66.95-67.00	66.95-67.00	1-10P	1-11P
Denmark	0.9671-0.9704	0.9670-0.9700	10-12P	2-4P
France	2.2322-2.2346	2.2322-2.2346	1-10P	1-11P
Germany	1.9375-1.9385	1.9375-1.9385	1-10P	1-11P
Italy	2.0500-2.0510	2.0500-2.0510	1-10P	1-11P
Japan	187.86-187.90	187.86-187.90	4-4:45P	1-11P
Netherlands	2.0985-2.0995	2.0985-2.0995	1-10P	1-11P
New Zealand	1.4988-1.4991	1.4988-1.4991	1-10P	1-11P
Portugal	2.0000-2.0010	2.0000-2.0010	1-10P	1-11P
Spain	1.6400-1.6410	1.6400-1.6410	1-10P	1-11P
Sweden	10.287-10.290	10.287-10.290	1-10P	1-11P
Switzerland	15.68-15.70	15.68-15.70	1-10P	1-11P
UK	1.5688-1.5706	1.5688-1.5706	1-10P	1-11P

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# STREET

[illegible]

79%	79%	St Paul's Cos
64%	63%	Salomon Inc
44%	43%	Sara Lee Corp

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THE  
TIMES  
CITY  
DIARY

Curling stays  
on his bike

PROMOTION to the top at Osborne Clarke, the law firm, where employees are expected to have "a distinctive personal style", has done nothing to change the travelling habits of Chris Curling. He's been with the firm since 1978, and has just been made senior partner in Bristol.

The post, you would imagine, brings with it a car and a parking space. Curling, a keen cyclist, has been peddling seven miles to and from work for several years and has no intention of changing his mode of transport. But he has bagged the parking bay for his bike.

Women aboard

MIKE GOLDING, who beat Chay Blyth's solo circumnavigation record by more than 100 days in 1994, has changed his ways and his crew for the BT Global Challenge. Four years ago, in the British Steel race, he had the only all-male crew. Now, he has welcomed three women aboard. However, only two can be named: Amanda Tristram and Alex Sizer. The third, a communications manager with a City firm, hid behind fellow crew members during the photocall, saying: "I haven't told my boss yet that I will be taking nine months off work."

Spared the axe

SOME luck, of sorts, is coming the way of Smith New Court staff, whose firm was absorbed into Merrill Lynch last year. It's that time of the year when Merrill examines costs, and out of a worldwide workforce of 44,000, possibly up to 250 will be tapped on the shoulder. In Britain, the firm employs 3,000, of which 24 could go. However, I am assured, none of the troops at former SNC is on the list.



Trading first

ING Barings has become the first overseas broker to open on the floor of the Johannesburg stock exchange without "paying" for the privilege. Trading commenced yesterday, marking the next stage in the local development of the firm, which opened a research office in Johannesburg in October, 1994. Greg Mackay, London-based head of dealing for South African products, is in South Africa to oversee the latest push, supporting Simon Hollis, local head of operations.

ANTHONY BROOKE, a managing director at SBC Warburg, is joining BZW next month as a senior banker in its merchant banking division, with responsibility for UK corporate coverage.

Howe on form

THE importer of Louis Roederer Champagne is staggered by the accuracy of Nigel Howe in predicting the year-end FT-SE 100 index. It promised a Jeroboam of 1989 Roederer Cristal for the closest prediction. In July, Howe, 38, from Peel Hunt, the broker, opted for 3,692.2, one-tenth of a point lower than the actual close. Tonight, he picks up his prize, equivalent to four normal bottles. A Jeroboam recently fetched £800 at auction. His prediction for the end of this year is 3,720.

COLIN CAMPBELL

# Digital money opens way to cashless global trading

The Internet  
needs a safe  
way to barter,  
reports

Alasdair Murray

THE business potential for the Internet is beyond doubt. It offers a future of ultra-quick, efficient and, above all, global business. But to date the greatest commercial use seems to have been as a glorified advertising forum for corporations desperate to gain youthful credibility.

Until a safe, convenient and recognised form of electronic money arrives, it remains a huge global marketplace without a means of barter. The real net revolutionaries are not the prophets of the information superhighway, whose science-fiction visions of the future have coloured coverage to date, but the small band of companies working on Internet payment systems. If they are successful the repercussions will go far beyond giving office workers the opportunity to order pizzas online.

Analysts estimate there will be a potential Internet market worth £400 billion by the end of the decade. Electronic money offers the perfect means of exchange, providing instant settlement, easy storage and saving on bank fees. It will also open the door to anyone seeking to place money in tax havens, enabling floods of currency to circulate around the globe, far from the state's reach.

As Ray Hammond, who is writing a book on the subject entitled *Digital Money*, to be published by Hodder and Stoughton in the spring, says: "Electronic money will be a major threat to national economic sovereignty. Its growth will diminish the role of the state and encourage the rise of new money providers — economic corporations."

As yet, there is no clear indication which of the electronic money schemes is going to be a winner. But choices made now will have a profound effect on what kind of system evolves. The big guns, Microsoft, Visa and Mastercard, have only recently entered the fray. They are working on protocols for encrypted credit card payments to ensure a hacker will not be able to pick up your credit card number online and take it on an instant shopping spree. The original concept was for Visa and Mastercard to work together to establish a single system, but Visa has teamed up with Microsoft and Mastercard with Netscape to launch competing systems.

Credit card systems will give Internet commerce a boost, providing mail order companies with a novel outlet for their wares, but ultimately they can only be part of the solution. Much net commerce is likely to revolve around small payments for data, whether it is paying pennies to read an online database or taking part in an interactive game.

What is needed is an Internet payment system that more closely resembles cash and this is where the small dedicated companies, with names such as Cybercash and Digicash, come in. Cybercash has developed a system that goes one step beyond the credit card. The user deposits money



Net prophet: Dr David Chaum, Digicash founder, appearing on the Internet to explain the ecash system

with a bank affiliated to the scheme — there are currently ten participating institutions — and then downloads an electronic purse to spend in Internet shops. After a purchase is made, the shopkeeper contacts the customer's bank, the electronic money provides the necessary information, and converts the digital money back into real cash.

Cybercash's system most closely resembles a switch card and the company itself cautiously refers to it as an electronic method of messaging money.

Magdalena Yefil, a co-founder of Cybercash, believes the attraction is that it keeps a tight control on real funds: "The money is in the bank account so there is no question of where the money is."

Cybercash also offers real benefits for global transactions. Money can be deposited in any denomination, even though, so far, the participating banks are only in the US. Paying in Cybercash will cut out expensive currency conversion for both customers and businesses.

Digicash, founded by David Chaum, the guru of cryptography, is far more ambitious in the development of its electronic money scheme, ecash. It dispenses with the need for an escrow account, working more like an ATM (automated teller machine). An account is set up, the amount of ecash to be withdrawn is requested and the amount downloaded to your personal computer. When asked to pay, you confirm the transaction and your software transfers the required amount. Vendors then deposit coins in their own digital accounts.

Digicash has just gone live, teaming up with the Mark Twain Bank of St Louis, Missouri, which provides the bank accounts. Swedish Post, whose retail banking arm has

direct access to more than 75 per cent of Swedish households, has also bought a licence to use ecash, although it has yet to give a launch date.

Well-reported cases of hackers stealing data have raised fears about the security of money on the Internet. But Digicash maintains that the built-in security provided by ecash makes it more secure than existing methods of holding money. Ecash uses encryption techniques as powerful as those used for nuclear secrets, to protect it in transfer, and a digital signature that makes any coin unique and usable just once. If you lose your money, through a computer crash for instance, a back-up number allows you to regenerate the coins. If some-

If electronic cash  
succeeds the market  
could be worth  
\$400bn by the end of  
the decade

one refuses to give you a receipt, the digital signature will provide proof that you spent the money.

But every advance in electronic money technology increases fears that the freedom that digital money offers also increases the potential for abuse. The ability to transfer sums anywhere in the world instantaneously, was previously only available to the money markets. Now it will be possible for anyone to send funds to some Internet bank offshore, far beyond the reach of the taxman, or to set up an Internet business in any obliging country in the world, without leaving home.

Mr Hammond, whose Hammond organisation specialises in Internet and

business, says: "The ease with which money can be moved about and the levels of anonymity available will speed up the shift towards relying on indirect taxation."

If ecash takes off and banks or even companies decide to start lending electronic currency, the currency begins to take on a life of its own, no longer backed by cash held in accounts or by a direct conversion from hard money. It will develop a value divorced from government-issued cash, and if the money is issued by reputable businesses who can guarantee its value, it could quickly prove more attractive than a number of the weaker currencies around the world.

Mr Hammond believes that this is a distinct possibility: "You will get a situation where Marks & Spencer, Sainsbury's or Microsoft want to issue their own money, a kind of extension of voucher shopping. The money will succeed if they can back it with resources. We are going to see corporate money and companies making payments and valued by their exchange rate and not their stock price."

The flipside is that the world could return to a system of competing private currencies, and when trust breaks down much of the issued cash will end up worth no more than monopoly money. In America in the mid-nineteenth century, a number of US banks that privately issued money crashed, leading the government to take control of the money system.

It is trust that is the essential element in the equation. Money can only act as a store of value if people believe in it. For the moment digital money is likely to preserve its value only if it can be exchanged for traditional currencies like the dollar, sterling or the mark.

"People have trust in the existing banking system and it



## Blair misses the point

Tony Blair is a man of strong opinions, but he doesn't quite know what they are. His speech in Singapore yesterday laid out the "economic big idea" that is supposed to cap Mr Blair's reconstruction of the Labour Party by giving the voters a positive reason to support Labour. Contrary to the world-weary cynicism that passes for insight in the dinner party consensus, Mr Blair does have a big idea. In fact, he has at least two big ideas. The trouble is that they sound clichéd, meaningless and uninspiring.

Mr Blair says that he wants to create a "stakeholder society" that would bind the nation together in the common enterprise of achieving economic success. He also wants to extirpate long-term unemployment, promising that "the problems of low pay and unemployment must be tackled at source". What he does not seem to recognise — and certainly does not convey — are the potentially revolutionary implications of these apparent platitudes.

Beneath the hideous business school jargon of the "stakeholder society", what Mr Blair seems to be talking about is the antithesis of capitalism but of narrow individualism. He is repudiating the Thatcherite slogan that "there is no such thing as society". He is implying that an everyman-for-himself society in which individuals confine themselves to fighting for their own material interests will not be politically popular or even economically successful.

In making these claims, Mr Blair seems to have stumbled onto a potentially inspiring project for the new Left: to redefine socialism as the politics of co-operative social action, rather than of state ownership or income redistribution. To do this, he must put meaning into the mysterious third element of the old left-wing slogan — liberty, equality, fraternity.

This is a big idea if ever there were one. But does Mr Blair realise that this is what his call for a "stakeholder society" is really about? And is he prepared to take the political risk of moving from man-

agerial jargon to the language of social revolution?

Now consider unemployment. To tackle unemployment "at source" would require a complete transformation in the conduct of economic policy in Britain. The minimum conditions would be root-and-branch reform of the Treasury and the Bank of England — including the removal of most of their senior officials — and total repudiation of the monetarist orthodoxy that governments must never "take risks" with inflation, enthusiastically endorsed by Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor.

There is a simple arithmetic fact: unemployment can only be reduced if the economy grows by more than the growth of productivity plus the growth in the number of people who want to work. Given the rapid rate of technological progress that Mr Blair wants to promote and the large number of alienated, work-shy and otherwise discouraged people he wants to coax into the labour force, the combined growth of productive potential is likely to be at least 3 per cent. It is, then, a matter of simple arithmetic to see that unemployment can only be reduced within a reasonable period — say the five-year lifetime of a parliament — if the economy grows by about 4 per cent.

What (if anything) a government can do to achieve such rapid growth is an open question. What is indisputable, however, is that the Treasury and the Bank can easily prevent rapid growth taking place. All they have to do is to raise interest rates and/or taxes every time the economy accelerates above, say, 3.5 per cent. This is precisely what the people who now run the Treasury and the Bank devoutly believe in. Long-term stagnation, combined with permanent mass unemployment, can then be guaranteed.

Yet Labour leaves this powerful point to be made by such anti-establishment right-wingers as Patrick Minford and John Redwood. Meanwhile, Mr Blair does not seem to understand his own promises and cries only crocodile tears for the unemployed.

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## VISUAL ART 1

Provocation in bulk: a famous collection of Schiele's work goes on show in Düsseldorf



## VISUAL ART 2

Something for the pilgrims: a new centre for contemporary art opens in Santiago de Compostela

THE TIMES  
ARTS

## VISUAL ART 3

Unfashionable virtues and haunting vision are exhibited in Christopher Bramham's show



## TOMORROW

An image of elitism? The cameras come to Covent Garden as it struggles to justify its millions

In Germany, Richard Cork marvels at a definitive exhibition of Egon Schiele; plus other shows abroad and at home

## A short life, but a great one

Dying at the age of 28, Egon Schiele never proved that he was more than an astonishingly precocious talent. But by succumbing to the calamitous Spanish flu epidemic of 1918, he remained early faithful to his central obsession as an artist. For the overriding theme of his work, from teenage years through to the end, is mortality. Schiele was incapable of looking at the human form without becoming anxiously and yet fiercely conscious of extinction.

Far from lapsing into morbidity, he knew how to let his grim preoccupation energise his art. Paradoxically, his awareness of the grave sparked his imagination into life. It ensured that the exhibition of more than 150 paintings, watercolours and drawings at the Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen in Düsseldorf is fuelled by a swift, assured and often exuberant dynamism.

For the first time in Europe, the full extent of Rudolf Leopold's legendary Schiele collection is here on display. It adds up to a bracing experience, not least because Leopold has never been afraid to acquire the toughest and most controversial examples of Schiele's prolific output.

Although he discovered his individual outlook at an unusually early age, Schiele owed a large debt to Gustav Klimt. The latter's willingness to simplify and flatten, claiming the right to improvise with colour in an almost musical way, liberated the adolescent Schiele. He introduced himself to Klimt while still a student in Vienna, and benefited hugely from the older man's encouragement.

But if his style was influenced by Klimt, he lost little time in defining his own vision. Klimt rejoiced in the peacock elegance of his impeccably fashionable female sitters. Even his melancholy symbolism becomes decorative, and un-

ashamed hedonism nourishes his languorous drawings of the nude. However much he learnt from Klimt's audacity, Schiele looked on the world with a harsher eye.

As early as 1908, his drawing of a naked man viewed from behind stresses enigmatic rather than sensuality. Typically, he makes the unknown model bend right over and stare back at us, face upside-down. The startling informality of

**Schiele's awareness of the grave sparked his imagination into life**

the pose is countered by the harshness with which Schiele defines the projecting spine. He always searched for the skeleton beneath the skin, and never relinquished his governing interest in the violence of line.

Never content to let his sitters adopt conventional poses, Schiele asked them to take up ever more arresting attitudes. This insistence sometimes seems unsparing, especially when children are depicted and he discloses their nakedness with alarming frankness.

Schiele's most direct images of juvenile models led to his arrest and imprisonment in 1912, charged with pornographic indecency. But the truth is that he viewed the young with the same astringency he trained on adults.

The two stages of life are powerfully brought together in a series of watercolours called *Mother and Daughter*, where girl and woman embrace each other so fervently that they seem on the point of fusing into a single figure. Schiele

exposes their blanched attenuation, and alleviates it only with ferocious gashes of scarlet on the mother's lips and cheek.

Moreover, anyone who accuses him of exploiting his models' vulnerability should remember how Schiele scrutinised his own body. Time and again he gazed in the mirror, motivated not only by narcissism but also, more significantly, by an urge to see himself as the quintessence of bare frailty.

Despite the heroic size of his 1910 seated self-portrait, the figure defined there is painfully gaunt. Hip and shoulder bones jut out like sharply pointed rocks from the contours outlined with such abrasive precision on the canvas. Stripped of everything save a meagre coating of flesh, Schiele looks positively flayed as he lurches to the side. With one wiry arm defensively hugging his neck, he seems to anticipate an assault. The absence of a visible seat accentuates his instability, and the emptiness of the surrounding white space makes him appear utterly isolated.

Even here, at the age of 20, Schiele knew exactly what to leave out. His grasp of pictorial economy often has an oriental flavour, suggesting an intelligent interest in Japanese prints. But the anxiety reflected clearly in his work is unmistakably Viennese, a product of the same fascination with psychological tensions that fired Sigmund Freud's pioneering investigations.

Wherever we look in this relentless show, humanity seems to be in extremis. Self-conscious figures, aware of being watched, claw at the air with talon-like fingers or contort their limbs in positions eloquent of strain and suffering. Sometimes they protest too much: the gestures become melodramatic, and Schiele is guilty of turning disquiet into a mannerism. More often than not, though, his formidable rigour prevents the images from sliding towards self-indulgence.



Self-portrait with winter cherries (1912) illustrates the stark focus which Schiele applied to all his depictions of the human form

Take *The Hermits*, the grandest painting on view here. Schiele, shown full-length, occupies the centre of the canvas. His hollowed-out, down-turned face frowns out at us, his black eyes taking on a peculiarly diabolic air. Thorns crown his head, a symbol of suffering so obvious that it could easily have degenerated into self-pity. But the presence of an older, bearded man close behind him, resting his head on Schiele's shoulder as if from terminal fatigue, gives the painting an unexpected tension. So does the decision to

swathe both figures in black robes, lending the picture an austerity that somehow cancels out the threat of overheated emotionalism.

To judge by the prodigious amount of art he produced, Schiele must have been an exceptionally disciplined and hard-working young man. Admittedly his innate facility helped him to achieve impressive results with the minimum amount of fuss: many of these deft, single-minded drawings look as if they were produced very quickly indeed.

Most of the paintings, though, betray signs of considerable labour. Obliterated earlier versions are detectable beneath the final, worried-over layers of pigment, and the deserted townscapes in particular must be the result of great deliberation.

In this respect, Schiele was well-equipped to benefit from a long, industrious career. But before we lament his untimely loss, the change in his final phase of work ought to make us pause. Marriage coincided with a softening of both style and outlook. Some of the

demonic energy seeps out of his art in 1918, and two unfinished paintings of female nudes are surprisingly feeble.

If he had lived, Schiele might well have become complacent, slick and dull. But death, an unseen yet omnipresent force in all his finest work, made sure that he was never able to betray his youthful brilliance.

● Egon Schiele is at the Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen, Düsseldorf (0049 211 83 81-0) until Mar 10

## A question of lights and death

An ancient Spanish church provides a spectacular setting for modern art, says John Russell Taylor

Not so much has changed since pilgrims to Santiago de Compostela were expected to arrive on their knees, clutching their scapular shells. Admittedly the pilgrims now tend to arrive in tour buses, but visually most of the historic centre has been kept intact. And where the modern world has decided to intrude, the intervention is made with taste and enterprise.

The most notable recent example is the new Centro Galego de Arte Contemporanea, which opened last year with an exhibition devoted to the work of its architect, the fashionable and highly imaginative Portuguese, Alvaro Siza.

The Centro complex is right on the edge of the conservation area, next to the Gothic church of San Domingos de Bonaval and its adjoining monastery, now the Museo do Pobo Galego. From the outside, the

Centro is an irregular block of white stone, a huge modern sculpture dropped down on a plinth and just glimpsed from the bottom of a small rise, where the old town effectively ends. As you approach the Centro, it is gradually revealed, but what you are mainly aware of is San Domingos straight ahead.

It is therefore obvious at once that something extraordinary is going on in the largely disused church: that something proves to be a new exhibition/installation organised by the Centro, the first of a series which will invite various contemporary artists to do what they will with the spectacular space of the church's interior.

The first artist to make use of this great new resource, added to the other great new resource of the Centro's main building, is Christian Boltanski. The show he has devised is called *Advento*, which makes

brilliant play of several familiar elements of his art as well as adding some new.

Anyone who has ever seen a Boltanski show will expect those faded, period snapshots of children from the 1940s, each with its accompanying illumination suggesting a sort of votive candle. Sure enough, most of the main walls in the vestibule, nave and transepts are scattered with them, this time with the wiring for the lights meandering from unit to unit in such a way that the whole thing evokes one of those medieval wall-paintings of the family of man or the generations of Israel. There are also a couple of partitions made up of that other old Boltanski prop, the rusting biscuit tins which suggest compartments in a crematorium.

But look down, and you see something very different. At a glance it suggests Boltanski's notorious marshalling of old clothes, which visitors were requested to carry off for their own uses at the Serpentine recently. But this is much more orderly: overcoats in a variety of cheery colours are laid out over the nave floor in a regular pattern which evokes visions of monks in oblation, facing the altar. (Except that the apex holds no altar, but a duster of boxes under dust sheets, not even illuminated after dark.)

Boltanski explains that the coats are intended for Sarajevo, and at the close of the show will be transported there in a fleet of cars, one to each car: a concept evidently stronger on symbolism than on practicality. Look right up, and on the ceiling of the north transept there is a shadow-show, *La Javanais*, of angel shapes circling the dome.

As usual, it is all about death. But, even more, it is about transience, and the way that, if forgetting abolishes, remembering inevitably transforms. In the context of Santiago, and specifically of this historic building, the question



Works of art bound for a useful life in Sarajevo: Boltanski's overcoats spread across the nave floor like prostrate monks

must arise, "But is it art?" Boltanski is quite sanguine about that one. "Don't tell them that what they are looking at is supposed to be art. Never let the word 'art' raise its ugly head." It is just a mysterious, evocative experience that visitors are offered, and what, if anything, they choose to call it is their concern.

In any case, evidently with the Centro in their midst, consistently pursuing the propagation of the contemporary, the inhabitants of Santiago de Compostela will soon become accustomed to it, even if they are not already. In the Centro itself there is another exhibition — also conceptual, also visually stunning — called *A Possible Landscape* by the New York-based Felix Gonzalez-Torres, which again concerns memory and death, evoking in a variety of ways, direct and indirect, the materials of the artist's life story and

the death from an AIDS-related illness of his lover. Gonzalez-Torres also spills out over the town, with many strategically placed billboards featuring without explanation his brooding black-and-white photographs of birds against a threatening sky.

What is impressive about the whole thing is the complacency, even enthusiasm, of the local authorities. Possibly the Centro may be considered fortunate in being able to call for support not only on the Spanish State, but also on the municipality and the autonomous government of Galicia, prominent representatives of which were present at the opening. One fears that an analogous situation in Britain, could it exist, would probably lead to a wholesale passing of bucks.

● Both shows are at the new Centro Galego de Arte Contemporanea, Valle Inclan, Santiago de Compostela, Galicia (0034 81-546621) until March

Christopher Bramham is a painter with all the great unfashionable virtues which make for artistic longevity. Now in his early forties, he paints mainly urban landscapes, Richmond Park being about as far as he usually ventures out into the wilds, as well as the odd interior and still-life. His colour range is deliberately subdued: the greens are generally greyish, under leaden skies, and if the sun does shine its effect is likely to be bleaching rather than radiating. Why, then, is there something so haunting about these apparently drab scenes, particularly favouring the small areas of struggling nature hemmed in by railway lines? No doubt it has a lot to do with the sheer intensity of Bramham's vision, his delight at seeing the vegetable world winning through against all odds. Then there is the confident, unobtrusive skill of his craftsmanship, which brings him closest, perhaps, to the Lucian Freud of the Paddington pictures. A quiet talent, but one that comes through loud and clear.

Marlborough Fine Art, 6 Albemarle Street, London W1 (0171-629 5161) until Jan 26

Chris Beetles's annual winter shows of originals by British illustrators from the 18th century onwards have become an institution, if not a national treasure. This year the standard is as high as ever. Of course, not all illustrators are to the taste of all collectors, but the sheer variety of art on show is so enormous that only the very hard-to-please could find nothing to interest them. The usual favourites are still out in force: Rackham, Heath Robinson and Peake make a good show on their own, before one progresses to the lesser known, but often equally deserving. One contemporary of Rackham who deserves to be much better known is Edmund J. Sullivan (1869-1933), who had the curious distinction of teaching the teenage Hitchcock how to draw and, more importantly, how to go straight for the dramatic point of any composition. The drawings from his brilliant satire *The Kaiser's Garland* (1915) indicate a feeling for the macabre which cannot have gone amiss with the future creator of *Psycho*. A later illustrator who comes out very well is James Boswell,

whose work instantly inspires a flash nostalgia for the chic and swinging 1960s, while among our own contemporaries Larry establishes a new corner for himself with a series of cartoons in which dogs are inserted into great paintings of the past. Who would have guessed that the infant Jesus in Millais's famous picture of Joseph's workshop looks so miserable because he has just been bitten by the family retriever?

Chris Beetles, 10 Ryder Street, London SW1 (0171-639 7551), until Jan 19, then a compact version for another month

Although hardly ever taken seriously as an artist by serious people, Rowland Hilder was always able to map out his own territory in the English landscape and lay a claim to it that no other could rival. Perhaps his most distinctive skill was in the depiction of leafless trees in winter, their elegant tracery picked out against a frosty blue sky. Throughout his long life (1905-1993) he also had a special affinity with the sea and seafarers — he was one of the best illustrators of *Treasure Island* — and took great delight in the simple flowers of the English countryside, as in his *Shell Guide* to the subject. He was an eloquent watercol-

ourist, although perhaps more in the line of coloured drawings than in the broad washes favoured by the purist, and always an incisive draughtsman. This show, drawn from the artist's studio, strongly suggests that a reappraisal is in order. Duncan Campbell, 15 Thackeray Street, London W8 (0171-937 8665), until Feb 2

□ The Friends Room of the Royal Academy, just off the main entrance, is one of the lesser-known selling spaces of London. But the present show is well worth seeking out. In a faint echo of the Africa show on in the main galleries, it presents a selection of Kuba raffia textiles, mostly made since 1950, although following a form and tradition which goes back at least to the 17th century. The Kuba are a people of Zaire, and their cloths are mainly woven from palm raffia. The designs are largely geometric, the results timeless: if one were assured that the designers were trained at the Bauhaus, one would hardly doubt the truth of the statement. Friends Room, Royal Academy, Piccadilly, London W1 (0171-694 5668) until Jan 18

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THE TIMES  
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OPERA 1

**Wit and tragedy**  
mix happily as  
Phyllida Lloyd  
returns to  
superb *Bohème*

OPERA 2

**... while Philip**  
**Prowse touches**  
**up his gaudy**  
**staging of *The***  
***Pearl Fishers***  
**at the Coliseum**

OPERA: A thrilling revival of *Bohème*; and love and honour among fisherfolk

True to the joys  
as well as the  
tears in the attic

Before you react with "oh no, not another revival of *Bohème*", be reminded that this is emphatically not just another *Bohème*. Phyllida Lloyd's two-year-old production for Opera North, set in the Paris of the 1950s, was always fresh as paint: she has returned to re-direct it with a new young cast and it comes up even fresher.

It is at once brilliantly funny and starkly tragic, and those who imagine they are impervious to all Puccini's little tricks by now should be warned that the end is simply shattering: five young people completely unable to cope with death in their midst. You long for the curtain to descend, but the excellent conductor Jean Yves Ossonce draws the final bars out to near-breaking point, and you are spared nothing.

But you have had laughs along the way, from a Musetta and Marcello who tend to settle their differences non-verbally and on the floor, a cross-dressing Schaunard, amazing acrobatics in the fourth-act dance scene, even a little dig at the Covent Garden Ring (Rodolfo puts a cardboard box over his head). The scene in the Mimos coffee-bar, its scarlet renebaudette whirling on a revolve, is a masterpiece of stagecraft: the principals are always visible and audible, and the surreal treatment of the box-seller, Pargol, brings a nice whiff of Cocteau to proceedings.

Ossonce is crucial to the evening's success. He achieves ideal balance, stressing the forward-looking delicacy of Puccini's instrumentation rather than its thumping "big tune" roots in early verismo: this means that the singers, none of whom has a huge

La Bohème  
Grand, Leeds

voice, can project the words easily — and when did you last hear every syllable of Schumann's first-act narration?

The singers also show that they know what these words (in Italian) mean and this, combined with Lloyd's minutely detailed direction, results in a *Bohème* so concentrated as to keep even the most blasé opera buffs on the edge of their seats.

You may not instantly believe in Tito Beltran's Rodolfo as a melancholy writer — he didn't fool me for a minute, tapping away on his Corona portable — but his portrait of a young Latin lover on the make looks pretty authentic as authentic as the Italianate ring to his tenor. There's more melancholy to Karl Diamond's Marcello, warmly sung with nicely sustained legato lines. Garry Magee's frisky Schaunard and John Hall's rueful Colline are first-rate, and Eric Roberts makes a memorable landlord straight out of *Rising Damp*.

Young Margaret Richardson sings Mimì her soprano as yet a little "whiter", but she showed proper earnestness in dealing with Puccini's long lines, sympathetically nursed along by Ossonce. Her cool, serious seamstress was plainly running the relationship. Elena Ferrari's deliciously sparky Musetta would run the world, given half a chance.

This *Bohème* is true in every way, true to Puccini, true to life, and richly rewarding.

RODNEY MILNES



Tito Beltran as the young lover Rodolfo, and Margaret Richardson as Mimì in Opera North's *Bohème* — set in Paris, staged in Leeds

Fairy-tale of fate and froth

Philip Prowse has tended his production of *The Pearl Fishers* carefully over the years, prefinishing and simplifying it. He is back for the present revival, and his guiding hand is needed to make sure that the opera's gaudy, with pink and gold predominate, and sackfuls of pompousness on the stage do not turn into ornate, tawdry. He just about succeeds in controlling his own glittery sets for Bizet's thin tale of love and honour among the fisherfolk of Ceylon. But the staging remains a combination of the bazaar and the bizarre.

The latter element is provided by the invented figure of Nemesis — or whoever the Brahman special representative may be on the Sinhalese shores — who stalks the action throughout with her three attendant whirling dervishes.

Prowse could well argue that the opera needs a bit of a boost. It really only springs to dramatic life during the big choral moments, and the ladies

The Pearl Fishers  
Coliseum

and gentlemen of the ENO, heavily blacked up, are happily on excellent form. But Lady Nemesis does become a bit tiresome before the evening is over. Happily the four principals do not take too much notice of her until the close, when she stands with her knife poised over Zurga's head.

Michael Lewis, despite a cold, made much of the only member of the cast Bizet managed to turn into a flesh-and-blood creature. His baritone rang out firm and true in the last act as Zurga meditates on the fate of his rival, Nadir, and eventually does the right thing and allows him to go off with the priestess, Leila. John Hudson's high tenor suits him well as Nadir, and given a little caution at the top, he negotiated the Cavatina with much grace. Hudson and Lewis sang their

famous reaffirmation of friendship, after both falling for the same girl (Leila) in far off Kandy, with clear, swaying rhythm.

Elizabeth Woollett, swathed in veils, began nervously as Leila, a part she sang at the last revival. The opening coloratura stretched her, and her duets with her tenor did not strike much warmth. She was at her best in the last act, with the sacrificial pyre just around the corner. Mark Richardson repeated his stentorian Nourabad, promising death to all who foul Hindu law but ending up a corpse himself.

Emmanuel Joel, in the pit, confirmed the excellent impression he made in last season's *Don Quixotte*. He is a major asset to the ENO's French repertory, letting Bizet's melodies lay out into the theatre. If all makes for a comfortable Radio 2 evening, complete with fairy lights and sparklers, a nice piece of Kandy froth.

JOHN HIGGINS

LONDON

**EXOTICS AT THE WELLS:** London is treated to two colorful dance programs at Sadler's Wells to start the new year. Encouraged by four sold-out seasons of the Corazon Flamenco troupe, Francisco Grana has formed the larger Corazon Flamenco, and arrives for a double-bill of Spanish corymba dances, the London premiere of *Hochu de Salsabana* and the world premiere of *Lo Mas Honde*. Over at the Swan Bay, Wendy Burman and Jacqueline Jarratt in *Dancing Gato* return to popular demand for another week of the top-quality corymba of Astorian troupes, taking over the years Sadler's Wells. *Flamenco* (Mon-Fri 7.30pm, Sat 8pm and Sun 2pm, Fri 7.45pm, Sat 8.15pm, Sun 2.15pm).

**BRITISH SONGS:** The Victoria's series goes from strength to strength, with a cross-section tonight. Conductor Michael Chance, Adrian Thompson, Paul Robinson and others. *British Songs* (Mon-Fri 7.30pm, Sat 8pm and Sun 2pm, Fri 7.45pm, Sat 8.15pm, Sun 2.15pm).

**WIGMORE HALL:** Wigmore Hall (Mon-Fri 7.30pm, Sat 8pm and Sun 2pm, Fri 7.45pm, Sat 8.15pm, Sun 2.15pm).

**DEAD FUNNY:** Beinda Lang, Kevin McElroy and Sam Kelly in Terry Johnson's sharply funny comedy about comedy and some of their fans. *Dead Funny* (Mon-Fri 7.30pm, Sat 8pm and Sun 2pm, Fri 7.45pm, Sat 8.15pm, Sun 2.15pm).

**THE DUCHESSES OF MALPI:** An ancient Greek play by Euripides, now in Greek by John's extraordinary new production. *The Duchesses of Malpi* (Mon-Fri 7.30pm, Sat 8pm and Sun 2pm, Fri 7.45pm, Sat 8.15pm, Sun 2.15pm).

**GOLDHAWK ROAD:** New Simon Bost play, the sexual deeds of his youth catch up with the former driver of a luxury coach, now leading him and his friends to ruin. *Goldhawk Road* (Mon-Fri 7.30pm, Sat 8pm and Sun 2pm, Fri 7.45pm, Sat 8.15pm, Sun 2.15pm).

**HYSTERIA:** Henry Goodman plays Freud, with Tim Potter as Sigmund Freud's son, and a number of other award-winning. *Hysteria* (Mon-Fri 7.30pm, Sat 8pm and Sun 2pm, Fri 7.45pm, Sat 8.15pm, Sun 2.15pm).

NEW RELEASES

**ALL MEN ARE MORTAL (15):** Dull Europeanism from Simone de Beauvoir, no one about love and morality, with Jean-Paul and Jean-Pierre. *All Men Are Mortal* (Mon-Fri 7.30pm, Sat 8pm and Sun 2pm, Fri 7.45pm, Sat 8.15pm, Sun 2.15pm).

**THE HORSEMAN ON THE ROOF (15):** Love and heroism amidst a chaotic world in 1930s Provence. *The Horseman on the Roof* (Mon-Fri 7.30pm, Sat 8pm and Sun 2pm, Fri 7.45pm, Sat 8.15pm, Sun 2.15pm).

**THE KINGDOM:** Steven Spielberg's drama about a young boy's quest for his father. *The Kingdom* (Mon-Fri 7.30pm, Sat 8pm and Sun 2pm, Fri 7.45pm, Sat 8.15pm, Sun 2.15pm).

**SEVEN (15):** Unsettling and offbeat story of a man who kills his wife. *Seven* (Mon-Fri 7.30pm, Sat 8pm and Sun 2pm, Fri 7.45pm, Sat 8.15pm, Sun 2.15pm).

**THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT (15):** A film about the love and politics of the 1990s. *The American President* (Mon-Fri 7.30pm, Sat 8pm and Sun 2pm, Fri 7.45pm, Sat 8.15pm, Sun 2.15pm).

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment  
compiled by Kris Anderson

ELSEWHERE

**COLCHESTER:** Nick Hornby's *Seven Pitches*, adapted by Paul Hodge, takes to the road again. *Seven Pitches* (Mon-Fri 7.30pm, Sat 8pm and Sun 2pm, Fri 7.45pm, Sat 8.15pm, Sun 2.15pm).

**WYCOMBE SWAN:** (01494 512009) Tonight-Sat, 7pm, mats today, Thurs, Sat and Sun, 2.30pm.

**PRESTON:** Vernon Handley conducts the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra in an eclectic programme of Beethoven's *Thyrs* to Come. *Thyrs* (Mon-Fri 7.30pm, Sat 8pm and Sun 2pm, Fri 7.45pm, Sat 8.15pm, Sun 2.15pm).

THEATRE GUIDE

**Jerome Kingdon's assessment of theatre showing in London**  
House full, returns only  
Some seats available  
Seals at all prices

**Duke of Yorks:** St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-436 5121). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Thurs and Sat, 3pm.

**AN INSPECTOR CALLS:** Stephen Dillane's powerful production, with Michael Woodson as the all-knowing Inspector, and Edward Peel and Susan Engel as the pawns of society. *Inspector Calls* (Mon-Fri 7.30pm, Sat 8pm and Sun 2pm, Fri 7.45pm, Sat 8.15pm, Sun 2.15pm).

**SALTINBANK:** Admitted by such as Robin Williams, Bill Clinton and Madonna, the Montreal-based Cirque du Soleil finally arrives. *Saltinbank* (Mon-Fri 7.30pm, Sat 8pm and Sun 2pm, Fri 7.45pm, Sat 8.15pm, Sun 2.15pm).

**SON OF MAN:** Dennis Potter's son of the sea of Christ. *Son of Man* (Mon-Fri 7.30pm, Sat 8pm and Sun 2pm, Fri 7.45pm, Sat 8.15pm, Sun 2.15pm).

CINEMA GUIDE

**Giff Brown's assessment of films in London and where indicated with the symbol (S) on release across the country**

**SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT (15):** Julia Roberts as a southern wife facing her husband's infidelity. *Something to Talk About* (Mon-Fri 7.30pm, Sat 8pm and Sun 2pm, Fri 7.45pm, Sat 8.15pm, Sun 2.15pm).

**THE INDIAN IN THE CUPBOARD (15):** A film about a young boy's quest for his father. *The Indian in the Cupboard* (Mon-Fri 7.30pm, Sat 8pm and Sun 2pm, Fri 7.45pm, Sat 8.15pm, Sun 2.15pm).

**THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT (15):** A film about the love and politics of the 1990s. *The American President* (Mon-Fri 7.30pm, Sat 8pm and Sun 2pm, Fri 7.45pm, Sat 8.15pm, Sun 2.15pm).

**SEVEN (15):** Unsettling and offbeat story of a man who kills his wife. *Seven* (Mon-Fri 7.30pm, Sat 8pm and Sun 2pm, Fri 7.45pm, Sat 8.15pm, Sun 2.15pm).

PORTFOLIO

**ANDREW HAVILL**  
Sandra Hill's

**THE WOMAN IN BLACK**  
Adapted by Stephen Mather. *The Woman in Black* (Mon-Fri 7.30pm, Sat 8pm and Sun 2pm, Fri 7.45pm, Sat 8.15pm, Sun 2.15pm).

**RUPERT STREET**  
Lionel Heaf's *Rupert Street* (Mon-Fri 7.30pm, Sat 8pm and Sun 2pm, Fri 7.45pm, Sat 8.15pm, Sun 2.15pm).

**GRACE**  
Starring Richard Dinkley and Samantha James. *Grace* (Mon-Fri 7.30pm, Sat 8pm and Sun 2pm, Fri 7.45pm, Sat 8.15pm, Sun 2.15pm).

**MISS SAIGON**  
"The classic love story of our time." *Miss Saigon* (Mon-Fri 7.30pm, Sat 8pm and Sun 2pm, Fri 7.45pm, Sat 8.15pm, Sun 2.15pm).

**AN IDEAL HUSBAND**  
Directed by Harold Prince. *An Ideal Husband* (Mon-Fri 7.30pm, Sat 8pm and Sun 2pm, Fri 7.45pm, Sat 8.15pm, Sun 2.15pm).

**THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA**  
Directed by Harold Prince. *The Phantom of the Opera* (Mon-Fri 7.30pm, Sat 8pm and Sun 2pm, Fri 7.45pm, Sat 8.15pm, Sun 2.15pm).

**THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS**  
An absolute winner. *The Wind in the Willows* (Mon-Fri 7.30pm, Sat 8pm and Sun 2pm, Fri 7.45pm, Sat 8.15pm, Sun 2.15pm).

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Nervous start: Elizabeth Woollett

ENTERTAINMENTS

ART GALLERIES

**ROY MILLS GALLERY:** Drawings and fine art at 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676,





## TELEVISION

Thirty years of British sleaze are evoked in Peter Flannery's new drama series



## POP

The shortlist for the Brit Awards pays expected homage to Blur and other focal lads

## THE TIMES ARTS



## MUSIC 1

Richard Rodney Bennett's works are prominent in the opening night of PLG Young Artists



## MUSIC 2

Rough edges are noticeable as the Lindsay Quartet continue their journey through Beethoven

# Power corrupts ... eventually

After 14 years in television limbo, an epic and timely tale of political sleaze is about to hit our screens. Ros Drinkwater reports

Peter Flannery's decision to dish the political dirt in what could be an election year may strike cynics as a master stroke of timing. But not so. *Our Friends in the North*, his 11-hour saga of sleaze in British life from the 1960s to the 1990s, has had a long and painful gestation period — 14 years of angst and off-screen drama including, in 1989, threats of resignation by a senior BBC solicitor if the production went ahead, and in 1993 threats of resignation by a senior BBC producer if it did not.

It was in 1982 that BBC's Michael Wearing (then producing *Boys from the Blackstuff*) commissioned a reluctant Flannery to write a four-part television adaptation of his original stage play. "I didn't believe it would be made," Flannery says. "In 1982 there were more legal difficulties, but time and the grave have taken care of most of them. Just as we were about to roll, Michael Grade was appointed Controller of BBC1 with a brief to find popular drama. He found it in *EastEnders*, and my project was swept off the desk. I was given the impression that I could take my scripts and my nylon T-shirt and bugger off back north."

In 1989, with Flannery's reputation as a television writer established by the likes of *Blind Justice*, Wearing decided to have another go. Given the green light by Alan Yentob, the current Controller, he commissioned a second draft, updated and extended to eight episodes. Flannery had reached episode seven when the lawyers asked to see the scripts. "At that time the BBC had considerable legal problems. In an effort to avoid costly libel actions the lawyers were demanding that ideas be cleared with them before they were written. I was told to set the story in a fictional country called Albion, that I mustn't mention Labour, the Tories, Newcastle, or any police rank above superintendent. I said no one would sue me — people had either been in prison and lost their reputations, or they had helped me, or they were dead and that, as it was a fictionalised account, anything I'd written was fair comment. The farce ended with a solicitor saying: 'If this goes into production I will resign.' So we were stopped. Again."

Flannery wrote to Wearing, warning him never to mention the words *Our Friends in the North* again, a warning that Wearing chose to disregard. In 1992 it was a case of third time lucky: a third update was commissioned, produced and will soon be on our screens.

Flannery in the flesh comes as a surprise. One would take him for a kindly, scholarly, softly spoken, mild-mannered man. His belligerence surfaces in his opinions of politicians in general, the Metropolitan Police in particular, 1970s crime correspondents, soap operas and the rise of public relations, "giving gloss instead of content, work experience instead of jobs".

Born in 1951, the son of a Jarrow labourer, Flannery graduated from Manchester University in 1973 with a degree in drama. "I was political only in the way that working-class boys from that area tend to be. You have axes to grind about 'them and us', you are basically disposed towards Labour and you hate the Tories, but it's fairly unthinking, it's in the blood, so to say, I wasn't and never have been a member of any political organisation."

*Our Friends in the North* was first commissioned by the Royal Shakespeare Company in 1981. Its essence,

then and now, lies in the development of four personal relationships, the idea born of Flannery's need to explore a question that intrigued him — why was his parents' generation in the North East so apathetic and cynical? "I perceived the possibility of political change, they saw it as an impossibility, offering as evidence corruption in the 1970s — golden handshakes, vice scandals, Poulson, T. Dan Smith, the unacceptable face of capitalism."

"I rang Smith and said I wanted to write a play about apathy, decay and corruption in British politics. 'Ah', he said, 'there is a play here of Shakespearean proportions.' Tolstoyesque, more like: *Our Friends*, as filmed by the BBC, uses 160 named characters and 3,000 extras, and is the biggest contemporary serial ever produced by BBC 2.

Smith led Flannery to examine alleged corruption in the police force. "I found the stories overlapping, the same people were involved." Conversations with Frank Williamson, the first outsider to head an inquiry into alleged Metropolitan Police corruption, revealed a similar tale. "Most of those involved were never charged, their defence was always that they had worked entirely in the public interest, just as T. Dan had maintained regarding the housing scandals."

According to Flannery, Williamson's report to Reginald Maudling, the then Home Secretary, was wholly damning. "He believed there was systematic corruption both in the Met and the CID. The report was returned to him within two hours, without comment. He never received an acknowledgement and he resigned. What Williamson didn't know was that at that time

the Met was investigating Poulson, and who was chairman of Poulson's company at the time, bribes were handed out? Maudling. Some of the people who were detective sergeants and inspectors in the late Sixties and Seventies are now men of more senior rank."

The update to 1995 means that the story now ends as it begins, with a new-model Labour Party and a bright new Labour leader. "Life's a circle," Flannery says. "Regimes come and go, but lies and betrayals go on for ever. There has always been corruption in politics; all that was different about the Sixties was that because of some good campaigning journalism some of the scandals were brought out into the open."

"I've moved from being an angry young political writer to a much more confused political animal who now sees the value in writing about relationships. We live in an ongoing culture of corruption. *Friends in the North* is the story of people who tried to do something about it, and failed. It may be a Utopian ideal, but we must keep trying because the drift is always in the other direction. Corruption breeds corruption. I'd love to believe that a Labour victory would start a clean-up in politics, but I'm afraid they'll be trapped by the very institutions that support them."

"I dread the prospect of Tony Blair gradually disappearing into himself at the end of the century, having to come out with the same compromises and half-truths in order to defend the system that supports him. In many ways T. Dan Smith was a villain, but he had this boundless optimism that he could change the world. His last words to me before he died are worth remembering — 'Tomorrow is too late.'"

● *Our Friends in the North* begins next Monday at 9pm on BBC 2



England, their England: (top) Malcolm McDowell; (middle) police under threat; (above, from left) Daniel Craig, Mark Strong, Gina McKee and Christopher Eccleston, *Our Friends in the North*

David Sinclair wonders if it is healthy for a small clique of bands to win a disproportionate number of awards

## Britpop will dominate Brits

The mood was buoyant yesterday, when the organisers of the Brit Awards announced the nominations for this year's event. The chairman of the awards, Paul Burger, said the nominations reflected "the renaissance of British music in 1995" and predicted that the event (which is being staged this year for the first time at Earls Court, on February 19) would be the best yet.

David Bowie, who will receive the Outstanding Contribution award, was confirmed as the only artist so far booked to perform at the event. But Malcolm Greie, producer of the 90-minute TV show which will be screened on ITV the following night, declined to comment on speculation that Michael Jackson and Robson & Jerome — none of whom received nominations — would nevertheless be invited to perform.

To gauge the extent of that "renaissance" it is worth remembering that when Blur swept the board at last year's Brits, winning four awards and leaving Oasis to console themselves with a trophy for Best British Newcomer, the mass of the British public hardly knew who either of these young groups were. Most newspapers illustrated the event with a picture of Madonna, an American who had not actually won anything. A year later, those same groups are so familiar that the event is beginning to look like an exercise in rounding up the usual suspects.

Predictably, this year's nominations confirm the domination of the so-called Britpop bands. Four acts — Blur,

Oasis, Pulp and (slightly more surprisingly) Radiohead — have established a virtual stranglehold in every category for which they are eligible: Best British Group, Album, Producer, Video and Single. Supergrass are nominated in three categories (Newcomer, Video and Single) and apart from Tricky, the Best British Newcomers are all Britpop favourites — Black Grape, Supergrass, Elastica and Cast.

It is hard to think what could be better news for the Brits than the arrival of Britpop. A vindication of everything the awards stand for, even the name "Britpop", spontaneously coined some time last summer, could have been tailor-made to bolster the credibility of the event. After

all, if the aim is to celebrate and promote the British music industry it helps to have something appealing, timely and genuinely successful to celebrate. The NME's Brit awards — the supposed anti-establishment alternative to the "moribund" Brits — features an almost identical line-up in most of its nominations, also announced last week.

But the concentration on this small clique of acts rather than the question of what is going on elsewhere in our music industry, and whether Britpop is now commanding a disproportionate amount of media attention and music industry resources. Take that are nominated for Best Video and Best Single, but otherwise the teeny bands have been

completely wiped out. And did none of the shortlisted British dance acts — Eternal, Leftfield, Massive Attack, M People and Tricky — or solo acts (with the single exception of the Britpop-affiliated Paul Weller) make an album worthy of inclusion in the Best Album list? It seems not.

The paucity of British female solo acts this year is especially noticeable. There were only about a dozen who were even eligible, having released an album during the appropriate period, and those that are include such venerable ladies as Shirley Bassey, Elaine Paige and Olivia Newton-John. The eventual shortlist of P.J. Harvey, Annie Lennox, Vanessa Mae, Shara Nelson and Joan Armatrading

is not hugely inspiring, and I trust Harvey will win it by a mile.

Internationally, the Best Female Solo Artist is one of the livelier categories with the stylish Björk, k.d. lang and Alanis Morissette facing heavyweight opposition in the slender shapes of Mariah Carey and Celine Dion. And it is encouraging to see the (comparatively) fresh faces of Foo Fighters, Garbage and Morissette all nominated in two categories.

OTHER NOMINEES: Best British Male Solo Artist: Edwyn Collins, Van Morrison, Jimmy Nail, Tricky, Paul Weller. Best International Male Solo Artist: Coolio, Lenny Kravitz, Meat Loaf, Prince, Neil Young. Best Soundtrack: *Batman Forever*, *Braveheart*, *Muriel's Wedding*, *Natural Born Killers*, *Waiting to Exhale*.

## LONDON CONCERTS

## Fine view from a double-decker

Double-decker concerts, two each evening, are the basis of the Park Lane Group's Young Artists Series, which annually gives a kick-start to the new year's music. Not only do they bring forward much of the best new classical talent around, but the artists are heard mostly in music by composers of their own generation.

So it was with both the first night programmes, the latter of which boldly juxtaposed a saxophone quartet with a solo marimba, played by Colin Boyle. Mellowed than its near-relation the xylophone, the marimba demands a skilled technique if it is not to sound unduly monochromatic, and this Boyle supplied in abundance in his four-hammer attack on the American Jacob Druckman's Debussy tribute, *Reflections on the Nature of Water*, and the desert landscape evocation of Piers Hellawell's *Takka Makan*.

Boyle, a Scotsman, also has a vivid control of dynamics down to a whisper-soft pianissimo, which he further demonstrated in a nicely varied *Prelude, Meditation and Toccata* by Matthew Taylor, and in another Debussy tribute, *After Syrinx II* by Richard Rodney Bennett, where the variations on the original flute writing have been cleverly converted into new material to take the marimba repertory one step wider.

Bennett also added richness to saxophone music with his *Saxophone Quartet* (1994), played here with beguiling assurance by the three women and one man who call themselves Saxploitation. As well

PLG Young Artists  
Purcell Room

as exploiting the timbre of each member of the sax family from soprano to baritone, its ensemble writing is superbly crafted. The quartet was also heard in *Don Javi*, an ebullient character portrait by Oscar Bettison, and in *Six of the Bestiary*, a wittily allusive carnival of some other animals by Anthony Gilbert.

Gilbert's third String Quartet was a centrepiece of the early evening programme by the Nossek String Quartet, four women, including Jane Nossek as first violin, who are now on the staff of Manchester's Royal Northern College of Music. Their youthful accomplishment was evident in the crisp attack and balanced ensemble they brought to the work, a rhythmic drone imitating the hurdy-gurdy underpinning fragments of a theme worked over from a 14th-century hocket by Guillaume de Machaut.

Most impressive in this programme, however, was *The Still Dancers* by Piers Hellawell, three pieces designed to be played consecutively or separately, and here deployed as prelude, interlude, and postlude, to the other works. Each one had an unusual degree of imaginative enchantment, to which the lightly sprung figuration of the players contributed much, as did a more assertive style to a trenchantly written String Quartet by Paul Newland.

NOEL GOODWIN

## Erratic cycle path

On Friday and Saturday nights at the Wigmore Hall, the Lindsay Quartet progressed to the halfway point in their Beethoven cycle. The technical accomplishment of the Lindsay is considerable, yet it cannot be taken for granted. Whether one looks back to great ensembles of the past (the Amadeus spring to mind) or sideways at quartets of the new generation (the Skampa and the Brindisi, to name just two), the comparison is not flattering on a technical level. A performance from the Lindsay comes complete with rough edges, occasional wayward tuning (most noticeably from the leader, Peter Cropper) and even a sense of detachment.

Op 18 No 2, opening Friday's concert, exemplified this lack of polish, and although Op 127 in E Flat Major featured some powerfully conceived playing, it was let down by momentary lapses of concentration and a curious air of disengagement. When they get into their stride, however, the Lindsay are capable of extraordinary things. The first *Razumovsky* quartet, Op 59 No 1, brought the finest playing in Friday's concert. The opening movement, with its surging main theme and coursing repeated quavers in the accompaniment, built up to a tidal flow.

The scherzando element of the second movement was projected not by a skittish, lightweight treatment of the saccato, but with intimations of a darker side. The discordant outburst, when it came, was trenchant, making the

Lindsay Quartet  
Wigmore Hall

move into the distant B major all the sweeter. The exotic quality of passages like this, strongly coloured by the vibrant playing of Cropper, one of the Lindsay's most characteristic and attractive features.

The Adagio was a glorious lyrical effusion, shot through with minor-key intensity. The wonderful series of dialogues, beginning with first violin and cello stretching out in opposite directions, launched things on to a higher plane, and the move to D flat major brought with it a serene glow.

Saturday's concert was a more consistent affair, with thoroughly engaging accounts of further early (Op 18 No 3 in D), middle (Op 95 in F Minor) and late (Op 130 in B Flat) works. The homogeneity and thematic interplay of Op 18 No 3 were a delight, as was the intensity in the outer movements of Op 95 (*Serioso*).

If the progress of the late B Flat Quartet was a touch more erratic, that is in the nature of the piece. Beethoven's repeated dislocations of tempo and rhythm do not make for easy listening, but the Lindsay held our attention with the quiet authority and integrity of their playing.

Op 130 can be heard again, this time with the *Grosse Fuge* as finale in Wednesday's concert, but tickets are virtually impossible to come by.

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Security  
is this  
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way to go?

INNS AND



## LAW

● THE NEW BAR CHAIRMAN  
SPEAKS OUT 37

aula Davies wonders about the wisdom of using private firms to help at court

Security  
plc: is this  
the best  
way to go?

was all I could do to keep a straight face. As a bench, we had given permission for two defendants aged 15 and 17 to be brought — handcuffed — into court: a situation I have never seen in my 20 years as a magistrate.

Two young lads appeared, dwarfed by the security officers. They looked as though they had been thrown off their ards with ease. While hoping that the security men knew the law, I pondered the wisdom of using private security officers rather than police when it comes to what used to be called jailing moving prisoners from study to court.

It was the Criminal Justice Act 1991 that officially replaced the police presence, with either escorts for prisoners or court officers in the courtroom itself, a private system a few years before the Act.

Because of a shortage of court officers, most private security systems have been phased in since 1993, some recently as last year. Now most of the police's role in relation to the courts has been privatised.

Security is an important task for magistrates, who will take a dim view of chairs being thrown at them by defendants. Under Section 7 of the Act, the powers of security officers are being empowered to search any person who is seeking to enter the courtroom and any article in the possession of such a person.

They also exclude or remove from the courtroom any person who refuses to permit a search. And they are empowered to exclude or remove any person where it is "reasonably necessary" to do so in order to maintain order, to enable business to be carried out without interference or to secure the safety of any person or persons.

According to Peter Badger, the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, these officers of civilians instead of the police in the adult courts have been working better than expected.

Most ordinary magistrates, however, find the situation far less comfortable than when the police were in charge.

As one of my colleagues remarked: "The police would never have let a boy come into court without a shirt, as happened recently, nor would they have had to handcuff two lads. Yet civilian security officers cannot possibly have the antennae for trouble that the police have developed over the years. And the new officers lack the background knowledge and general ability to manage a difficult waiting room, which is particularly common to the youth courts. They need training, time and experience."

Training for these court security officers in inner London, however, has been extended from two to three days to promote "interpersonal skills", as well as training in the Act itself. The heavy-handed phrase covers the vital necessity of treating people with respect and kindness — particularly important when dealing with youngsters.

and their parents in the often volatile atmosphere of the youth courts. Apparently, the training does not differentiate between the adult and youth courts, which may explain some of the problems associated with dealing with the so-called supporters' clubs in youth court waiting rooms. Fortunately, as officers gain in experience, this seems to have been resolved.

There are six weeks of training for the prison escort officers. There has, however, also been criticism of escort officers for failing to prevent young lads from "doing a runner" — absconding from the courtroom. Yet such escapes also occurred when the police were in charge. And it was not entirely clear at the start of the exercise whether civilian security officers had the power to restrain people from leaving. This has now been clarified, and everyone agrees they can.

According to a regional director of one security firm, there is also a grey area concerning arresting someone who is causing a disturbance within the court itself. Most



Private security officers escort a prisoner arriving at court, work formerly done by the police

Police have  
to be called  
in to make  
some  
arrests.Border  
dispute

A BITTTER border clash has taken place between Tony Holland, former Law Society president, and Robin de Wilde, a founder of The SL, the grassroots movement for greater democracy at the Bar.

The die has unfolded in the pages of Counsel, the Bar's journal. First into the fray was de Wilde. In an article in the journal extolling the virtues of the Law Society, he accused the Law Society Council of betraying its members' "only issue".

In a later issue, rebutting the allegation, Mr Holland wrote the article is so full of "it is hard to know where to start. It took me some time to realise that he was merely referring to what he perceived to be real events," de Wilde claims the letter demonstrates why Mr Ma Mears was elected

by the membership". He concludes: "Perhaps I might be allowed to agree that Mr Holland's decision to resign from the Council of the Law Society is, as he puts it, 'one of his best decisions'."

## Hot night

PARTIES usually generate a lot of noise but just before Christmas, the first birthday party for FT Law & Tax, the legal publisher, generated more than most. It combined its party with a celebration of 100 years publishing its leading work, *Emmet on Title*. But the 101 candles on the black and pink iced cake set off the fire alarms.

To add to the confusion, latecomers were left out in the cold as the doors to the Financial Times's Southwark Bridge offices automatically locked to prevent anyone entering. Production on the

senior magistrates and their clerks believe that a security officer, as an officer of the court, is empowered to arrest someone for "contempt of court" if asked.

What security officers cannot do, however, is make an arrest in matters other than contempt of court. The police have to be called in to make other arrests: for example, when a person fails to answer to his or her bail. Some clerks seem to be under the impression that the police have to be called in order to arrest fine defaulters, yet this problem has apparently been under the control of civilians for some time.

What is certain is that magistrates are on a learning

curve, albeit not such a steep one as that of the security officer. And most are agreeably surprised by the increasing professionalism of the security firms that have contracted to do the work.

A few courts have decided to appoint their own security staff on the grounds that this offers greater flexibility and that the security people will know what is expected of them and have the advantage of knowing all the staff members, making — it is hoped — for a smoother-running court. Rumour has it that security officers are paid less per hour than a domestic cleaner in central London. If so, they are doing a remarkable job.

● The author is a magistrate.

mix of male and female choruses. Peter Scott, the law firm's manager, says: "The Lewis Silkin Choral Ensemble was made up of volunteers. We had one rehearsal, followed by an hour in a recording studio." The firm printed 3,000 copies for clients. Mr Scott would not reveal the amount spent — but to record a CD usually costs at least £2,000.

## Prime lines

OVERCROWDING on the Internet is predicted for 1996 in the latest *Internet Newsletter*, a guide for lawyers. It says growing interest will bring congestion: "Already, it is better to go online when the Americans are asleep — ie, in the morning for us — and the earlier the better."

The best time, it says, is 4am, when both America and Europe are asleep. Avoid afternoons and evenings. The newsletter (details 01273 472424) also says that costs of using the net will rise.

SCRIVENOR

## Street cred

A POCKET guide to "street" law for school leavers was launched yesterday. The *Young Citizen's Passport* (99p) from the Citizenship Foundation gives practical advice on every aspect of the law encountered by young adults, from parties to landlords, motorbikes to credit and tax. A free copy has been sent to secondary schools and sixth-form colleges. Details: Tony Thorpe (0171-236 2171).

## CD Christmas

THE MOST original Christmas message came in the form of a CD recording of 32 of Lewis Silkin's partners and staff singing *Jingle Bells*, complete with "Ho-hos" and a

French jury system  
may be restricted

The most important reform of the French criminal courts for 200 years has prompted a serious debate with the legal system. Lawyers, magistrates and academics agree that there is a problem but they cannot agree on the right solution.

Told by the overwhelming majority of the profession that the *Cours d'assises* — the courts that try such serious crimes as murder, rape and robbery — are outdated and unpopular, the country's Gaullist-led Government said in July that it would introduce a much-needed overhaul.

But the resulting Bill, which was outlined in a consultative document this autumn and is now going through Parliament, has sparked fierce controversy, with opponents claiming that it will restrict, if not abolish, the role of the jury.

Under the present system, set up during the heady days of the French Revolution in 1789, crimes of violence are tried at the *Cours d'assises* by nine jurors sitting with three judges. They decide on the verdict and the sentence but are not asked for a written judgment. Less serious crimes, such as theft, are tried by three judges alone in the *Tribunaux correctionnels*.

The debate is over the future of the *Cours d'assises*, the one court where a jury is used. Few commentators have dared to question the theory behind such jury trials, but, in recent years, they have been increasingly prone to criticise a system that they feel does not always work on an equal basis throughout France, and is also out of step with many other European countries.

Lawyers say that in different parts of the country jurors hand down widely differing sentences for the same crimes. Thus, in the South of France, rape is punished far more severely than in the North. An arsonist, on the other hand, is likely to fare better in Provence than in Normandy. None of this, critics say, would be of much importance if an appeal were possible. But, except in rare cases, it is not.

As in England, a verdict can be quashed only on a point of law or if new evidence comes to light. Yet, unlike England, there is no way of appealing against a sentence that appears particularly severe or lenient. "The jury is perceived as a manifestation of popular sovereignty and consequently it is felt that a decision reached by a jury should not be lightly interfered with," says a government briefing document on its legal system.

However, lawyers point out that defendants in a Tribunal correctionnel, being tried for less serious offences and without a jury, do have an automatic right of appeal. "We have a

system that is twisted," says Antoine Garapon, general secretary of the Institute of Superior Justice Studies in Paris. "It is incoherent."

He added that the Government's reforms were all the more urgent because the European Court of Human Rights has made it clear that defendants facing a heavy sentence should be given the possibility of a retrial.

Attempts by Jacques Toubon, the Minister of Justice, to deal with these complaints in his Bill has only created more conflict. Under his reforms a new court will be created, called the Tribunal criminel départemental, where three judges will sit alongside two citizen assessors, who will play a role similar to lay magistrates in England. The new court will hand down a full written judgment, which will be open to appeal by either the prosecutor or the defendant. The *Cours d'assises* will be transformed into a court which will hear only appeal cases.

For M Toubon, the advantages of his system are many. Inconsistencies in sentencing should be eliminated, defendants facing serious charges will be given the same right to appeal as those accused of more minor charges, and the excessively long delays in bringing cases to court, often three or four years, should be reduced.

"All defendants who are appealing will be able, if they so desire, to opt for trial by jury, and in that case it will be the jury which will have the last word," the Justice Ministry says.

Many lawyers, however, are not so sure about these advantages. M Garapon says that, in practice, only about 10 per cent of cases would go to appeal, with the result that trial by jury would be very restricted.

"A lot of defendants simply want to get it over with. For example, about a third of the cases in the present *Cours d'assises* concern sexual abuse and, for the accused, the trial is an ordeal which they will not want to go through again."

Jean-Claude Bouvier, general secretary of the Magistrates' Union, said that even where defendants did appeal, "the weight of the first decision will have enormous importance. The chances are that at the appeal the original sentence will be confirmed. The result will be to slim down the role of the jury."

Despite all these complaints, M Toubon says he will press ahead with his proposals, although he may introduce minor modifications. "These reforms," he said recently, "will reinforce the role of the jury."



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Things do not always work out quite so happily. Another candidate who turned up for an interview with a London firm was handed a test questionnaire by the receptionist and asked to complete it in the lobby. Feeling affronted by what he regarded as off-hand treatment, he turned around and left.

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Miss Fiona Borlick, Miss Elaine Marshall and Miss Hannah Swain having successfully completed pupillage have also joined Chambers.

We wish to express our thanks to Michael Hill QC and Nicholas Purnell QC for their work as Head and Deputy Head of Chambers, both of whom continue in practice in Chambers.

Members of Chambers are now as follows:

Michael Lawson QC	Roderick James	Simon Waley
Michael Hill QC	Daniel Jenner	Heather Norton
Nicholas Purnell QC	John Price	William Carter
Michael Austin-Smith QC	Graham Cooke	Allison Blood
Susan Edwards QC	Joanna Glynn	Nicholas Papadopoulos
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The salary attached to the post is C\$71,443 per annum (C\$1 = US\$1.20) together with a 15% Contracted Officer's Supplement payable monthly with salary, car upkeep and travel allowances. Emoluments are tax-free.

Application forms and general information may be obtained from:  
The Cayman Islands Government Office, 6 Arlington Street, London SW1A 1RE.  
Telephone: 0171 491 7779.

Closing date for receipt of applications is 7 February 1996.





David Penry-Davey, QC. "He is strict, has high standards and works very hard — and expects others to do the same," says a colleague

## The Bar will speak out

David Penry-Davey, QC, is the new chairman of the Bar. Frances Gibb asks him his plans

He looks like everyone's favourite uncle. He is affable and cracks jokes. But David Penry-Davey, QC, is not just a safe, predictable, air of hands. With a year of tough battles ahead, it is apt that the Bar has elected him to its new leader.

Mr Penry-Davey — DPD to colleagues and friends — is a criminal practitioner from the profession's ranks. Like most of the Criminal Bar, his work is chiefly legal aid; much of it outside London on the circuits. So he brings personal knowledge of the criminal justice system and the proposed reforms on which the Bar intends to tackle the Government.

In style and experience, therefore, he could not be more of a contrast to his predecessor, Peter Goldsmith, QC, a smooth-tongued, exacting commercial silk who led an unrelenting and intense campaign to modernise the Bar. Mr Penry-Davey's own head of chambers, Anthony Scrivener, QC — himself a former Bar chairman — says of his colleague: "David is a good all-round advocate. His strength is that he actually

mixes with the people on the circuit he represents. He will make an excellent leader — he's very popular, particularly with the Criminal Bar. He knows what's going on."

But if anyone thought Mr Penry-Davey's year would be one of steady consolidation, they were wrong. Since his inaugural speech last month to the Bar Council, the 90-strong governing body of the profession, he has laid down a series of markers: legal aid, Lord Woolf's reforms on civil justice, criminal justice policies, the Bar's own plans for a complaints system...

More significantly, he has lined up the Bar in clear opposition to the Government over its sentencing plans, to be outlined soon in a White Paper. In an attack on government sentencing policies, he says minimum sentences would destroy the Government's own incentives to criminals to plead guilty in the shape of sentence dis-

counts. "What incentives will there be," he says, "for anybody who might become liable to a minimum sentence to plead guilty?"

He also attacked the Home Secretary's method of formulating policy "by announcement to the Tory party conference", then implemented in hastily drafted legislation.

The Bar, he says, has been subject to "Criminal Justice Acts raining down on us like confetti, and swings in sentencing policy". First, courts were told only to jail offenders when strictly necessary and then for as short a time as possible, he says.

"Now," he adds, "it appears that judges are being told to do exactly the opposite — and we have the Tory party chairman [Brian Mawhinney] encouraging individuals to write in to say what they think of judges' sentences", an approach he "wholly deprecates". Mr Penry-Davey has delivered a similar attack on the Lord Chancellor's proposed reforms for the legal aid scheme.

Not that Mr Penry-Davey is particularly radical. A colleague describes him as a "free thinker" from a strong Tory background; his solicitor-father, whom he regrets did not live to see him become leader of the Southeastern Circuit he held the post from 1992 to 1995, was a staunch local Conservative.

Whatever his politics, Mr Penry-Davey is a natural conservative; Martin Hart, his senior clerk, says: "He is very strict on attitude to the clients — always calls people 'Mr' or 'Mrs', never gets involved with their personal side and has high standards. He works hard, and expects others to do the same."

In terms of Bar policies, he will pursue current initiatives. Formerly Bar vice-chairman, Mr Penry-Davey backs the proposals for a complaints system — proposals opposed, ironically, by some within the Criminal Bar. He rejects the claim that the

scheme involves abandoning self-regulation. "If we throw this modest scheme out, we send to the outside world the message that we are not prepared to regulate ourselves. And if we don't, somebody else will, perhaps in a way we find much more unpleasant."

Mr Penry-Davey's other concerns include the need for barristers to be trained in advocacy. As circuit leader, he set up a residential advocacy course and a sponsorship scheme for trainee barristers to go to America for training.

Outside the Bar, he is a family man. He and his wife, a drama teacher, live in Dulwich, south London, and have three children. He enjoys golf, music and fell-walking.

He is aware that many barristers regard "bringing up a family and earning a living" as more important than Bar Council matters. And he accepts that there is a limit to the impact one individual can have in one year as leader.

But in that time he is determined, as he puts it, that "his voice will be heard". He says: "If we can leave the profession in good shape at the end of 1996, I shall be content."

## Time for a limited move offshore?

Lawyers worried about their homes and cars are considering new options

Do you sleep well at night? Partners in professional firms were given uneasy dreams by last month's High Court judgment in the ADT case which, subject to an appeal, may mean personal bills of hundreds of thousands of pounds for Bolder Hamlyn partners.

What happens to accountants today normally affects lawyers tomorrow. The case has highlighted the fact that "unlimited liability" means exactly what it says: that lawyers can face huge payouts when negligence is proved against them.

Lawyers agree that some protection is necessary. Graham New, Shoosmiths & Harrison's managing partner, says: "We have been looking at this issue, and we are shadowing what the accountants are doing."

In fact, the accountants are already demanding reform of the law on "joint and several liability" and the right to restrict their liability on audits by contract. In due course, lawyers may ask for an equivalent form of shelter.

For the present, however, most top law firms have been undertaking rapid reviews of their insurance cover. As Peter Cole, the managing partner at Eversheds, says: "We live in a culture in which suing one's professional advisers seems to be increasingly attractive."

Among the top 20 firms, the current spread of cover is, for some, as low as £75 million; for others, £250 million. The average seems to be £125 million. The significance of this has been borne out in "beauty parades". Lawyers pitching for work are sometimes asked about their level of professional indemnity cover. Some managing partners would like to have agreements

with clients that the level of cover would also represent their level of exposure. John Heller of Hammond Suddards says: "I'd like to see a limited liability built into agreements. Our clients limit their liability; I don't see why we should not do the same."

John Trotter, one of the professional indemnity specialists at Lovell White Durrant, has recently looked at this issue on an international basis. His view is that the scale of some transactions may now be so large that they simply

might raise objections. The route already adopted by some accountants, however, is incorporation. This does not protect the firm but it removes the homes and cars of individual partners from the firing line. Mr Knowles says that his firm is already seriously considering incorporation.

He says: "There are many compelling reasons for a law firm like ours to incorporate: for example, to spread ownership, to provide a better remuneration system and have a better structure for managing the business. There would also be the advantage of protecting individual partners — but that would not be the main motive."

Ultimately, however, many lawyers believe that quality systems and risk assessment are the best ways of cutting down exposure.

Shoosmiths & Harrison is the biggest firm in the country to have the ISO 9001 "quality" standard and Mr New regards this as a key part of protecting the partnership.

Meanwhile, Julia Chain, managing partner at Garrett & Co, says that when she developed her systems, she borrowed heavily from Arthur Andersen, the accountancy firm with which Garrett & Co is associated. She adds: "We followed Arthur Andersen's experience in order to build the most rigorous system available."

In the end, however, there is no infallible system. Lawyers are prepared to live with risk so long as it is at a sensible level. "The idea is that one should be able to sleep at night," says Mr Heller, whose fervent dream is that a nightmare claim will never happen to him.

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Peter Cole suing can seem too attractive: Julia Chain: followed Andersen's experience



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For further information please call Nicky Rutherford-Jones or Emma Hopkins on 0171 405 6062 (0171 350 0682 evenings/weekends) or write to us at Special Project Lawyer, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 3JH. Confidential fax: 0171 831 6394.

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## Briton warned to speed up as O'Meara coasts to three-shot triumph Faldo delighted to settle for second

FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT IN SAN DIEGO

AN UPBEAT Nick Faldo struggled off a warning for slow play after a splendid, but vain, attempt to win the Mercedes Championship at La Costa, here on Sunday.

He was too euphoric over his fine form to be concerned at criticism from his playing partner, Mark O'Meara, who steadfastly defended a four-shot overnight lead to beat Faldo into second place by a three-stroke margin in the curtain-raiser to the 1996 US PGA Tour.

Faldo was delighted at making such a promising start to the season with rounds of 70, 64, 68 and 67 giving him renewed hope that he can reassert himself on the American circuit and launch a worthwhile challenge for the four major championships.

The only sour note in an encouraging start to his campaign was Florida-based O'Meara's refusal to accept any blame after the pair, playing in the last group in the final round, were ordered to increase their pace of play in the interests of making a television deadline.

They had fallen a hole and a half behind the group ahead when they reached a critical stage in the showdown and both players were told to move faster at the 10th hole, where Faldo chipped in from 20 feet to cut his deficit to two shots.

"It upset me," the 38-year-old British golfer said, after finishing on a 14-under-par 27. "The official said we were five

minutes behind schedule and had to move faster.

"We had the biggest gallery on the course. It is never easy to play quickly when you are in the last group. We made up a minute on each of the next three holes. Mark and I had four birdies between us over that stretch and you cannot play any faster than that. Then we were told they were putting the clock on us and that's the last thing you need in such a tense situation."

They were warned on two other occasions and Faldo, who made his feelings known to officials before accepting a cheque worth \$88,000 (about

Scores ..... 40

\$57,000) for sharing second place with Scott Hoch, of the United States, said: "It was completely unnecessary. If we had been left alone, we would have made up the time over the next two holes anyway."

O'Meara, who completed his eleventh Tour win with a closing 68, pointed the finger of blame at his rival, telling the tournament director: "If we are playing slowly, it has to do with me. Slow play isn't a problem with my game. Nick said he was running but I was watching Faldo and thinking to myself: 'Why do you stand over the ball so long before hitting it?'"

The penalty for slow play is one stroke and that was never

likely to be applied, with officials reluctant to tarnish the occasion. While the general concern is laudable, Faldo and O'Meara completed the final round with eight minutes to spare before national television went off the air.

Faldo said: "I am not complaining because so many good things happened for me this week. I feel ready for a successful season after such an encouraging start. I improved my score every day and to have a 67 under pressure in the first event of the year has got to be good. I was particularly pleased with my driving — I only missed four fairways in 72 holes."

He had an eagle and five birdies with the title thumping towards O'Meara at the 11th, a testing 180-yard par three, where the British golfer's tee-shot finished four feet from the pin, with his rival eight yards away. The American holed his putt, while Faldo, clearly rattled by the slow play distraction, missed.

Faldo said: "That was the turning point. I expected to get within a shot of Mark and that would have put the pressure on him. Instead I lost a stroke and there was very little I could do after that."

He will take a three-week break before returning in the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am and the Buick Invitational here and will then prepare for the Masters in April by playing five tournaments in Florida.



Faldo celebrates after his successful birdie chip on the 10th hole at La Costa

## Masterly Haynes brings England down to earth

FROM MEL WEBB IN SHARJAH

IT WAS so easy it was almost embarrassing. England, with hopes high after a big victory in their first match of the World Masters Cricket series here, hit the deck with a resounding wallop yesterday when they were put to flight by a West Indies side that grows stronger with every match.

England's team of over-35s had one short spell in the field when they looked capable of making a game of it, taking three wickets for 14 runs in mid-mornings. It could not last, and did not, and West Indies, under the stewardship of Desmond Haynes, whose 125 not out won him the man-of-the-match award, duly won by five wickets with 23 balls to spare.

It has become something of a pattern in this series that the bat has dominated to a remarkable extent over the ball, and this game continued the sequence. The dominant figures in the match were all using timber, not leather. The bowlers? Well, with the honourable exceptions of Malcolm Marshall and John Embury, they set the ball in motion, and not much more.

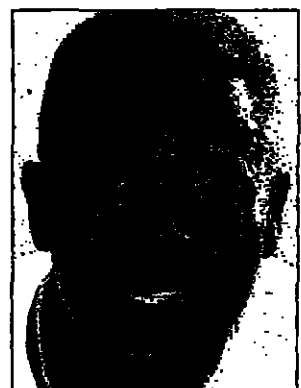
Haynes's hundred was his second crucial act of the piece. His first had been winning the toss and putting England in, Marshall, once the scourge of English batsmen in county and Test cricket, is completely shorn of hair these days, but he has not had his talent shaved away. Bowling at a less furious pace than in his pomp but making up for it with lateral movement either way off the seam, he did not take a wicket but, in a frugal spell, made sure that England would have to take risks in the middle of the innings.

England had scored only 62 runs off 127 balls when they lost their third wicket, but recovered, and then some. Gattling, whose bat was making that lovely thunk that denotes that man and willow are in perfect harmony, found an able lieutenant in the person of Paul Terry. They put on 154 runs in 22.1 overs, but the feeling at the close was that

England could have done with another 25 runs. In an incident-packed first over from Peter Hartley, Haynes hit a six, a four and offered one murderously difficult chance to Gattling at mid-wicket. Who knows what might have happened had the England captain held the catch?

With Richards at his swaggering, strutting best, Haynes put on 134 runs for the third wicket and, by the time they were separated, the match was all but won and lost. England take on India today and, even if they win, they look likely to have to rely on the arcane calculation of run-rates for them to progress. Not that they will object: a final is a final is a final.

SCORES: England 231 for 4 (45 overs: M Gattling 101 not out, V P Terry 55), West Indies 125 for 5 (101.1 Haynes 125 not out, I A Richards 55, J E Embury 3 for 31).



Haynes: fine hundred

□ Brian Lara will not be playing county cricket next season after Warwickshire yesterday opted not to re-sign him. Lara had originally asked to be released from his three-year contract with the Britanic Assurance champions, claiming he was exhausted, but had since changed his mind and had said he would be prepared to play.

Warwickshire are now interested in signing Shaun Pollock, the South Africa fast bowler. Jonathan Barnett, Lara's agent, said a gentleman's agreement meant Lara would not play for another county.

## Sick Sampras doubtful for Australian Open



Sampras: virus

PETE SAMPRAS, the world No 1, is struggling to be fit for the Australian Open tennis championship next week. Sampras withdrew yesterday from the Kooyong Classic, which starts in Melbourne tomorrow, because of a virus.

"Pete is very ill with the virus," a Kooyong Classic tournament spokeswoman said yesterday. "He has been advised not to travel to Australia while he is ill." With the opening grand slam event of the year getting underway at Flinders Park in Melbourne on Monday, it does not allow Sampras much

time to make the long flight and get in the necessary practice to be ready for the tournament.

Sampras was runner-up to Andre Agassi at the Australian Open last January, but finished the year winning Wimbledon and the US Open, taking the number of grand slam titles he has won to seven.

Agassi, who is playing in the eight-man warm-up event, arrived in Melbourne yesterday and said that he has fully recovered from a nagging chest muscle injury and is ready to defend his title next week.

"It's nice to be healthy again, feeling ready, and to start off here is a good feeling for me," he said. "I had never played here until last year and it's nice to know that when I've been away from the game, I can come back to a place where I'm treated so well."

"Needless to say, my energy level is high," he said. "I've been away for a bit, so you are always enthusiastic to get back." Agassi's chest injury ruled him out of the Davis Cup final against Russia in Moscow last month, and he said lack of match fitness was his

principal concern. "I'm as confident as ever, but it's not ideal to go into the tournament without playing an event for a few months," he said. "But I think that if I get through the first week, I'll be playing my best tennis in the second week."

In the Peters International tournament in Sydney yesterday, Arnaud Boetsch, the No 3 seed, was beaten 4-6, 6-3, 6-3 by Richard Fromberg, of Australia. Boetsch, of France, could not match the unseeded Australian's persistence in the sweltering conditions.

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## Chanel 5 Broadcasting

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### Company Secretary/Head of Business Affairs

Ref:01/96

#### The Role

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This assignment is being handled exclusively by Graham Gill & Young

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# Resurgent Green Bay send 49ers packing

the Packers to the National Football Conference (NFC) championship game next week.



favourite so far is the "Ice Bowl" meeting between the Cowboys and the Packers for the conference title at Green Bay's frozen Lambeau Field in 1967. The Packers won that one 21-17 but the Cowboys have won their last six meetings, including two play-off games.

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# For excitement, the brains beat the brawn

Will computers stop us thinking for ourselves, as one of the questions that kicked off a new season of *The Brains Trust*. Nothing too difficult for Jonathan Miller and the brainy bunch — a quick rail against the early use of calculators, a plea for poetry once again to be learnt by heart and we were on to the next. Do we know what love is? No, but they knew a Wittgenstein who did.

And so it was that some of the mightiest intellects in the land neatly avoided the turning question of the evening — will popular drama stop us thinking for ourselves? The answer, at least for those of us who caught the first episode of Call Red (TV) — very possibly.

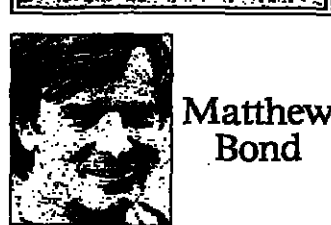
Having exhausted the Armed Forces and the emergency services as subjects, master producers of popular drama are now left with filling the gaps in a series

about an air ambulance, where half the characters do the flying while the other half do the doctoring.

That, at least is the theory. In practice the members of this particular Air Medical Service team, based somewhere around the Solent, are all far too busy flirting with each other to get any real work done. The mortuary at King Alfred's hospital must echo to the sound of patients unzipping their body bags and walking out to look for some proper medical attention. "Dad, Sean, why didn't you spot the pulse?" Philip will bellow soon at the weekly "death and doughnuts" review meeting. "Sorry boss, I was too busy giving Albie the glad-eye."

With sexual chemistry the top priority, casting has been done on the Robson Green principle — giving the best parts to the actors with the nicest eyes. "Right darlings, we'll have piercing blues,

## REVIEW



Matthew Bond

by good-looking cast of medics and flyers. The next few weeks will see if they can manage anything a little more demanding. To borrow from its own software jargon — Chances of Survival (BBC) Over 50 per cent.

By contrast the chances of survival for Paul Verhoeven's career are said to be slim — and falling. After enjoying huge popular success with *Robocop*, *Total*

Recall and *Basic Instinct*, the Dutch film director has run into a spot of bother with *Showgirls*, a film dubbed by its detractors as a go-go girl too far.

In recent months *Omikron* (BBC) has won a deserved reputation for outrageous perversity, so a spot of career rehabilitation made a nice change — even if it was timed to coincide with the British release of *Showgirls*. Did it succeed? Well, up to a point.

Certainly, David Thompson's film, subtitled *From Holland to Hollywood*, established that Verhoeven has a track record as a filmmaker for showing things as they are. In Verhoeven's world, if a woman crosses her legs while not wearing underwear, then a camera should be looking up her skirt. "I thought when we were shooting the scene that it might be fun."

A distinguished cast of actors and writers, including the Guinness-drinking Ringer Hauer

and Joe Eszterhas, who wrote the screenplay for *Basic Instinct*, were assembled to convince us that Verhoeven's approach was a legitimate one. Sadly, Sharon Stone, the world's best-known natural blonde, was not available for comment.

Thompson, however, also provided ammunition for those who believe that the mathematics graduate from Leiden has become a dirty old man, with some ice-curling footage of the director at work on the set of *Showgirls*. Surrounded by beautiful young women rehearsing their writhings and wriggles, our greying, denim-shirted Lohario looked as though he had died and gone to heaven. As the song says: vice work if you can get it...

But for the cutting edge of voyeurism, you had to watch *The Brains Trust* (BBC2) with its live acts of unstimulated, penetrative... thinking. With Nietzsche and Goethe whizzing past at head height it is tempting to mock this late-night revival of a show last seen in the early 1960s. Indeed with A. S. Byatt holding forth about the glee she experiences "every time" she reads *King Lear*, the temptation is almost irresistible.

In its new format the programme appears to have shifted the emphasis somewhat. No longer is it a case of humbly asking better minds than ours to do our thinking for us, instead this is thinking as a spectator sport. And with Jonathan Miller on his best behaviour and Edward de Bono performing his lateral party tricks ("if we bred humans to be half the current size, we'd have twice as much space each and eight times as much food to eat") quite good spectator sport it proved to be. Mind you, I could have done with action replays of some of the finer points.

- BBC1**
- 6.00am Business Breakfast (27151)
  - 7.00am BBC Breakfast News (2919888)
  - 9.10am Killy (223441) 10.00am News (CeeFax) and weather (940793)
  - 10.05am Can't Cook, Won't Cook (s) (6488828)
  - 10.30am Good Morning with Anne and Nick (s) (15248)
  - 12.00pm News (CeeFax regional news and weather (652593) 12.30pm Pebble (M) (s) (9756915) 12.50pm Regional News and weather (13451170)
  - 1.00pm One O'Clock News (CeeFax) (68806)
  - 1.30pm Neighbours: Heart's wedding day turns into a day of revelations. Meanwhile, a confrontation with Rhonda is left over (CeeFax) (s) (6452099) 1.50pm Bananac (285441)
  - 3.05pm Timekeepers with Bill Dod (s) (580625)
  - 3.30pm Ants in Your Pants (s) (128486)
  - 3.50pm Chucklevision (s) (129160) 4.10pm Free Willy (CeeFax) (s) (268183)
  - 4.35pm New! The Rick Bobby Davro presents the manic children's game show (CeeFax) (s) (944826)
  - 5.00pm Newsround (CeeFax) (461984) 5.10pm The Demon Headmaster (s) (CeeFax) (s) (788053)
  - 5.35pm Neighbours (s) (CeeFax) (s) (48877) NORTHERN IRELAND: 5.35pm Inside Ulster
  - 6.00pm Six O'Clock News (CeeFax) and weather (488)
  - 6.30pm Regional News Magazine (441) NORTHERN IRELAND: 6.30pm Neighbours
  - 7.00pm Holiday. Jill Jando visits Brazil, park's Guha visits the Italian resort of Positano. Pui Cooper takes a skiing trip to Canada, and John Pimen spends a weekend at the Burylley Horse Trials (CeeFax) (s) (6828)
  - 7.30pm EastEnders (CeeFax) (s) (625)
  - 8.00pm Great Ormond Street. A team from intensive care race to Harnet Hampstead where five-week-old Michael is having difficulty breathing (CeeFax) (s) (2248)
- BBC2**
- 6.00am Business and Work. Working All Hours (25793)
  - 7.00am Breakfast News (CeeFax and signing) (6579915)
  - 7.15pm Lancelotti (3833783) 7.40pm Stone Protectors (s) (7757245) 8.05pm Blue Peter (s) (5700064) 8.30pm The Good-Loving Minister (s) (581195) 9.00pm BBC2 Newsround (s) (38525) 9.30pm Sealark's Year (s) (73644) 10.00pm Playdays (s) (648138)
  - 10.25pm The People of the Forest (s) (57857248)
  - 12.00pm See Hear! (s) (CeeFax and signing) (56488)
  - 12.30pm Working Lunch (s) (77460)
  - 1.00pm Spot (s) (73534733) 1.05pm Jumper Jungle (s) (s) (28375441)
  - 1.15pm Willie Nelson: My Life (s) (1952151)
  - 2.10pm The Andrew Neil Show (s) (5924248)
  - 3.00pm News (CeeFax) and weather. Followed by Westminster with Nick Ross (CeeFax) (s) (7647712) 3.55pm News (CeeFax) (5803335)
  - 4.00pm Today's the Day (s) (354) 4.30pm Ready, Steady, Cook (s) (538) 5.00pm Esther (s) (4606)
  - 5.30pm The Village (487248) 5.55pm Turning Points (105793)
  - 6.00pm Fresh Prince of Bel Air (s) (480996)
  - 6.25pm Heartbreak High (CeeFax) (s) (388915)
  - 7.10pm The Ren and Stimpy Show (CeeFax) (s) (645482)
  - 7.30pm Local Heroes. Adam Hart-Davis recreates the world's first powered flight (CeeFax) (s) (267)
  - 8.00pm Pound for Pound. Making money for you (3118)
  - 8.30pm Food and Drink (CeeFax) (s) (2625)
  - 9.00pm Million Dollar Babies. The concluding part of the amazing but tragic story of the Dionne quintuplets. (s) (CeeFax) (6793)
  - 10.30pm Newsnight (CeeFax) (552506)
  - 11.15pm The Larry Sanders Show (CeeFax) (s) (407267)

- CHOICE**
- Return to the Dying Rooms Channel 4, 9.00pm
  - One of the least forgotten documentaries of 1995 was an expose of how China treats its abandoned children. Armed with hidden cameras, a television crew entered the country's state orphanages and brought back terrible footage of abused and neglected babies. Much of the material is repeated here, along with the findings of a parallel report by Human Rights Watch, an international body, into an orphanage in Shanghai. Its findings echo all too closely the evidence of the original film. The children are the unwanted products of China's attempt to slow the rise in its population. Too many people chasing too few resources is a genuine problem. A policy little short of murder is not a humane answer. A debate follows at 11pm.
  - Ride On Channel 4, 8.00pm
  - The chirpy Muriel Gray is back with the transport magazine that seems determined to set new standards in the esoteric. There may be motoring buffs who bother about how much of the classic car is made up of strictly original parts, or wonder how journalists arrive at those unbelievable performance figures. There may be hang-dog enthusiasts who would like to cheat nature by strapping a lawnmower engine to their backs. For both groups the show will be most and drink. The rest of us will be more interested in Gray's half-in-jest bid for one of the new rail franchises, in which she demonstrates a few novel cost-cutting measures such as dispensing with station staff and running coaches instead of trains.
  - The Gulf War: Thunder and Lightning BBC1, 10.45pm
  - Part two of an enthralling series opens with the Allied bombing of Iraq and the tear in the United States that the country might be enmeshed in another Vietnam. It relates the successes of precision bombing but also the failure, hidden at the time for political reasons, to deal with Saddam Hussein's sea missiles. It reveals how Saddam moved around Baghdad in old taxis to avoid being spotted. We get Andy McNab's story of the SAS patrol, Bravo Two Six, and General Sir Peter de la Billiere, commander of the British forces, launches his multi-rail diatribe against the Ministry of Defence. The combination of first-hand accounts from so many of the key participants, and intelligent editing, ensures a narrative of pace and authority.
  - The Larry Sanders Show/Seinfeld BBC2, 11.15pm and 11.40pm
  - While not precisely a double bill these two American imports, each starting a new run, fit happily together. Larry Sanders, played by Garry Shandling, is a sniggering, stand-up comedian who hosts a television chat show. Jerry Seinfeld (played by himself) is a current stand-up comic who appears on television chat shows. Each pokes fun at the medium which feeds him, though the humour is gentler rather than waspish. Seinfeld, which mixes stand-up routines and a sitcom format, probably offers the better value. It certainly has the quirkier, more real characters (such as stars of *LA Law* and *Cheers*) with fictional ones and having, in the luckless Kramer, one of television comedy's great oddballs. Peter Waymark



A Chinese toddler is left to die (C4, 9.00pm)

Return to the Dying Rooms Channel 4, 9.00pm

One of the least forgotten documentaries of 1995 was an expose of how China treats its abandoned children. Armed with hidden cameras, a television crew entered the country's state orphanages and brought back terrible footage of abused and neglected babies. Much of the material is repeated here, along with the findings of a parallel report by Human Rights Watch, an international body, into an orphanage in Shanghai. Its findings echo all too closely the evidence of the original film. The children are the unwanted products of China's attempt to slow the rise in its population. Too many people chasing too few resources is a genuine problem. A policy little short of murder is not a humane answer. A debate follows at 11pm.

Ride On Channel 4, 8.00pm

The chirpy Muriel Gray is back with the transport magazine that seems determined to set new standards in the esoteric. There may be motoring buffs who bother about how much of the classic car is made up of strictly original parts, or wonder how journalists arrive at those unbelievable performance figures. There may be hang-dog enthusiasts who would like to cheat nature by strapping a lawnmower engine to their backs. For both groups the show will be most and drink. The rest of us will be more interested in Gray's half-in-jest bid for one of the new rail franchises, in which she demonstrates a few novel cost-cutting measures such as dispensing with station staff and running coaches instead of trains.

The Gulf War: Thunder and Lightning BBC1, 10.45pm

Part two of an enthralling series opens with the Allied bombing of Iraq and the tear in the United States that the country might be enmeshed in another Vietnam. It relates the successes of precision bombing but also the failure, hidden at the time for political reasons, to deal with Saddam Hussein's sea missiles. It reveals how Saddam moved around Baghdad in old taxis to avoid being spotted. We get Andy McNab's story of the SAS patrol, Bravo Two Six, and General Sir Peter de la Billiere, commander of the British forces, launches his multi-rail diatribe against the Ministry of Defence. The combination of first-hand accounts from so many of the key participants, and intelligent editing, ensures a narrative of pace and authority.

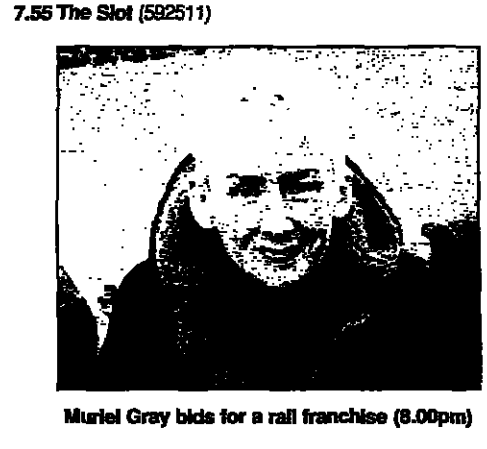
The Larry Sanders Show/Seinfeld BBC2, 11.15pm and 11.40pm

While not precisely a double bill these two American imports, each starting a new run, fit happily together. Larry Sanders, played by Garry Shandling, is a sniggering, stand-up comedian who hosts a television chat show. Jerry Seinfeld (played by himself) is a current stand-up comic who appears on television chat shows. Each pokes fun at the medium which feeds him, though the humour is gentler rather than waspish. Seinfeld, which mixes stand-up routines and a sitcom format, probably offers the better value. It certainly has the quirkier, more real characters (such as stars of *LA Law* and *Cheers*) with fictional ones and having, in the luckless Kramer, one of television comedy's great oddballs. Peter Waymark

- CARLTON**
- 6.00am GMTV (2039712)
  - 9.25pm Win, Lose or Draw Quiz (s) (4582606)
  - 9.55pm London Tonight (Teletext) (6485248)
  - 10.00pm The Time... The Place (s) (1236444)
  - 10.35pm This Morning. Weekday magazine series. Includes 11.00pm ITN News Headlines (57470354) 12.20pm London Today (6514793)
  - 12.30pm ITN News and weather (Teletext) (6828915)
  - 12.55pm Home and Away (Teletext) (6803806) 1.25pm Chain Letters (Teletext) (s) (32255151) 1.55pm A Country Practice (s) (64518151)
  - 2.20pm Vanessa (Teletext) (s) (16238198) 2.50pm Capital Women with Julia Carrington (s) (4765525)
  - 3.20pm ITN News Headlines (Teletext) (2417193) 3.25pm London Today and weather (Teletext) (2408170)
  - 3.30pm The Magic House (s) (2230557) 3.40pm Tots TV (s) (7814850) 3.50pm Twisted the Dream Being (s) (7810064) 4.00pm Bungle the Little Helicopter (s) (2043151) 4.15pm Santa Buglio (581052) 4.40pm Cone Zone (s) (Teletext) (s) (7945731)
  - 5.10pm After 5 With Carol Keating (6388880)
  - 5.40pm ITN News and weather (Teletext) (204002)
  - 5.55pm Your Show. Viewers air their views (132847)
  - 6.00pm Home and Away (Teletext) (s) (557)
  - 6.30pm London Tonight (Teletext) (809)
  - 7.00pm Emmerdale (Teletext) (1996)
  - 7.30pm The Investigators. An expose of London's lake fortune tellers (s) (793)
  - 8.00pm The Bill: Keeping it in the Family. An ice-cream vendor is assaulted (Teletext) (4204)
  - 8.30pm Outside Edge. When Roger introduces Olive, a new young member to the team, he gets a chilly reception. (Teletext) (s) (9151)

- CHANNEL 4**
- 6.35am Think Tank (s) (Teletext) (s) (5119977)
  - 7.00am The Big Breakfast (74480)
  - 9.00pm Fifteen To One (s) (Teletext) (s) (21793)
  - 9.30pm Stand Still, Be Fit (s) (s) (3623064)
  - 9.45pm FILM: Hudson's Bay (1940, b/w) The founding of the Hudson's Bay Trading Company with excellent portrayal of French trapper-explorer Pierre Radisson by Paul Muni. Directed by Irving Pichel. (Teletext) (67037564)
  - 11.30pm Living Memory: The 1960s (s) (1625)
  - 12.00pm House to House. Political discussion (41557)
  - 12.30pm Sesame Street (60373)
  - 1.30pm Orville G. Gains control (76308002)
  - 1.55pm The Goat (b/w). Buster Keaton waits in a queue for bread... but are in front after (64516793)
  - 2.20pm FILM: Moon Over Miami (1941). Musical starring Betty Grable and Charles LaRue as sisters who come into an inheritance, throw up their jobs, and go in search of husbands. Directed by Walter Lang. (Teletext) (688002)
  - 4.00pm Backstage with Valerie Singleton (422)
  - 4.30pm Countdown (506)
  - 5.00pm The Montel Williams Show (Teletext) (s) (708712)
  - 5.50pm Murrin Buchstansangur (115170)
  - 6.00pm The Avengers: Never, Never Say Die. Steed and Mrs Peel investigate the worrying mystery of walking corpses (s) (Teletext) (87847)
  - 7.00pm Channel 4 News including at 7.30pm headlines and weather (Teletext) (793118)
  - 7.55pm The Stoll (582511)

- CHANNEL 5**
- 6.00am GMTV (2039712)
  - 9.25pm Win, Lose or Draw Quiz (s) (4582606)
  - 9.55pm London Tonight (Teletext) (6485248)
  - 10.00pm The Time... The Place (s) (1236444)
  - 10.35pm This Morning. Weekday magazine series. Includes 11.00pm ITN News Headlines (57470354) 12.20pm London Today (6514793)
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  - 8.00pm The Bill: Keeping it in the Family. An ice-cream vendor is assaulted (Teletext) (4204)
  - 8.30pm Outside Edge. When Roger introduces Olive, a new young member to the team, he gets a chilly reception. (Teletext) (s) (9151)



Muriel Gray bids for a rail franchise (8.00pm)

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- 6.00am GMTV (2039712)
  - 9.25pm Win, Lose or Draw Quiz (s) (4582606)
  - 9.55pm London Tonight (Teletext) (6485248)
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- ANGLIA**
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...plus the importance of diet: choose foods that will keep you young

# Antioxidants: the key to a long life?

HOW NUTRITION AFFECTS AGEING

When the American chemist Linus Pauling, a double Nobel prizewinner, started taking large quantities of vitamin C, colleagues suspected he was turning a little strange. He lived to 93.

Pauling's habit is now shared by millions of people who start the day with a hand of pills. Is it just hypochondria, or will the pills help to prolong their lives? The evidence isn't complete, but what there is is mostly encouraging.

Recently the focus has begun to shift from vitamins to other substances in plants, known as phytochemicals or protective factors. There may be hundreds of such factors, many unidentified, which could be as important as vitamins in counteracting the processes that damage cells and lead to disease.

Quercetin, for example, a chemical found in onions, tomatoes, berries, olive oil, red wine and tea. Dr Michael Hertog of the Dutch National Institute of Public Health, reports last year that quercetin, like similar compounds, could help to explain the large difference in heart disease between different countries.

Evidence from the pioneering study of Dr Ancel Keys in the 1950s and 1960s, these differences provided the basis for comparing saturated fats. In 1971, the Seven Countries Study, Dr Keys concluded that the differences in fat consumption that explain why Mediterranean countries enjoyed such low rates of heart disease.

Dr Hertog has looked again at the seven nations in the study and found that the amounts of quercetin and other similar compounds (known collectively as flavonoids) in their diets ranged from 6mg a day in Finland to 16mg a day in Japan. The more that was eaten, the lower the risk of dying of a heart attack.

So could the differences in heart disease be the result of the flavonoids as well as, or rather than, the fats? Epidemiological studies, again in Holland, lend some support. In

**'All forms of alcohol are equally effective, in moderate doses, in reducing heart disease'**

800 elderly Dutch men, the group who consumed most flavonoids were 60 per cent less likely to die of heart disease within five years than those who consumed least. In middle-aged men, the risk of stroke was reduced by the same amount.

According to Dr Hertog, 90 per cent of the variation in mortality rates in the Seven Nations Study could be accounted for by just three variables: smoking, saturated fats and flavonoids.

At the Institute of Food Research in Norwich, Dr

Gary Williamson is trying to discover how flavonoids and other protective factors work. "Without doubt they provide some benefit, but how much, and by what mechanism, we don't yet know," he says.

Dr Williamson identifies three different types of compound that may be important: the vitamins C and E and beta-carotene (which is converted into vitamin A in the body), the flavonoids, and the sulphur-containing compounds that are found in onions and brassicas. Broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage and cauliflower are rich sources of this last group, which in animal studies have been shown to cut the risks of cancer.

Vitamins and protective factors are believed to work by quenching the activities of highly-reactive chemical species produced by the body's metabolism.

These so-called "free radicals" contain oxygen in an active form which can damage genetic material. Among their jobs is the destruction of bacteria, parasites and virus-infected cells, so they are certainly useful in fighting infections. But they can also damage healthy cells.

Professor Bruce Ames, of the University of California at Berkeley, has estimated that the DNA in every cell in the body takes about 10,000 "hits" a day from oxygen free radicals. The DNA repair system is highly reliable and can put most of them right, but over time damage accumulates. In two-year-old rats there are about two million DNA lesions per cell, twice as many as in young rats.

Mutations tend to accumulate with age, and — so the

To prevent dramatic facelifts like that in Terry Gilliam's film *Brazil*, doctors recommend a diet rich in vitamins and phytochemicals

theory goes — the process may be speeded up or slowed down by diet or behaviour. Smoking increases the rate of oxidation damage, and depletes the natural defences. But eating foods high in antioxidants, such as vitamins C and E, beta-carotene, selenium or the phytochemicals — reduces the risk of damage.

The process of oxidative damage underlies many of the changes that take place as we age. In rats, a severely restricted diet prolongs life, a change that Professor Ames attributes to reduced oxidative damage.

He has found that rats raised on a barely adequate diet have less oxidised protein and fewer DNA lesions.

A possible explanation may be that when there is little food available, rats delay sexual maturity and devote more of their resources to the maintenance of their body. This could explain why they seem to show lower levels of cell damage, but near-starvation is not a course that could be recommended, or would be followed, by human beings.

Some physicians believe that the health effects of red

wine may be due to protective factors derived from the grapes from which they are made. Experiments have shown that the phenols found in wine can limit the oxidation of the low-density lipoprotein in the bloodstream, which would have the effect of slowing the blocking of the arteries. But the evidence seems to be that all forms of alcohol are equally effective in moderate doses in reducing heart disease.

"There's no doubt that our main dietary problem is lack of antioxidants," Dr Anne

Walker, senior lecturer in human nutrition at Reading University, says. "If we could rectify this and get people to increase their intake of fruit and vegetables to five servings per day, we would see a great reduction in chronic disease."

The only practical way to increase antioxidants even further is to take vitamin supplements. While many doctors dismiss such pills as just a way of producing expensive urine, trials show over-doses of vitamins can help. In a group of 22,000 American doctors, those with minor signs of

heart disease who took 50mg of beta-carotene every two days — ten times the recommended level — had 50 per cent fewer heart attacks.

Not all trials, it should be said, show similarly good results, but for those who are persuaded, the only way to achieve these high levels of antioxidants is by taking vitamin supplements.

So far, there are no pills on the market containing phytochemicals, though they may be coming.

NIGEL HAWKES

## Food that leaves you full of beans

SECRETS OF SOYA

IT is possible that the elusive anti-age pill already exists — in the shape of soya bean.

Research from Britain, America and Japan suggests that eating a range of soya products can save women from breast and other cancers, and protect against DNA damage by free radicals — one of the main reasons for the physical deterioration that we call age.

Japanese are among the longest-lived people in the world, and the reason may well be that they eat soya products in almost every meal. Consumption is about 30 times greater than in the UK.

Soya is packed with chemicals

which are thought to help to prevent disease. The protein in it discourages, and may even help to reverse, cardiovascular disease by reducing the levels of "bad" cholesterol (the sort that clogs the arteries) while boosting levels of the "good" sort.

It also conserves calcium, unlike the protein from meat, helping to prevent osteoporosis, a problem which often occurs in older women.

Two amino-acids in soya — glycine and arginine — reduce insulin in the

blood and help to keep sugar levels on an even keel. This guards against the problems of excessive weight gain and age-related diabetes.

Soya appears to be the nearest thing we have to an anti-cancer food. One chemical found in the bean — a molecule that inhibits an enzyme which breaks down certain proteins — has been heralded by some US researchers

as "a universal cancer preventative agent". Another blocks an enzyme which turns on the genes which cancerous cells use to create new blood vessels to feed them. Hence, it effectively nips potential tumours in the bud.

Breast cancer has been found to be reduced by about 65 per cent in people who eat large quantities of soya. This cancer is particularly sensitive to the

effects of oestrogen, which speeds up its development.

Collaborative research between Manchester and Hong Kong universities has identified chemicals in soya bean which resemble oestrogen — but instead of stimulating hormone-sensitive cancers these chemicals inhibit them.

It is believed that the plant-derived hormone is chemically similar enough to the sort produced in the body to latch on to the oestrogen receptors in the

breast tissue, blocking off the body's own hormone. However, these chemicals are not similar enough to encourage cell division, so they have a protective effect.

The natural oestrogen in soya also gives protection against prostate cancer, and, probably, ovarian and womb cancer, too.

To benefit from the anti-ageing effects of soya it is important to eat the protein. This is found in tofu, textured soya protein, soya flour, soya milk, and of course, the whole bean. Unfortunately, soya sauce and soyabean oil contain very few of the magic ingredients.

RITA CARTER

## A fresh diet for a healthy body

WHICH FOODS TO EAT

Ever used to be so simple. "A little of what you fancy," said granny (actually, as it turned out), while medical textbooks recommended "a balanced varied diet". Today, the search for an elixir of life has led from the laboratory to the kitchen — and it more fruitful for the change.

These days that kill most people — cancers and heart disease — are the very ones in which nutrition plays the biggest part. In the package of diseases which decide how long you'll live, environmental factors — of which eating is probably the most important — are the most impact as the inheritance. And, unlike our genes, nutrition is something you can control.

The healthiest diet is probably the Mediterranean one: mass of fruit and vegetables, olive oil, fish and bread, laced down with plenty of red wine.

Fish is an important word here. If a carrot is picked and stored before being boiled for 20 minutes, by the time it gets to your body its high level of vitamin C has been practically destroyed. By contrast, a carrot which is sliced and frozen on the same day, then lightly cooked three months later will probably retain most of its antioxidants.

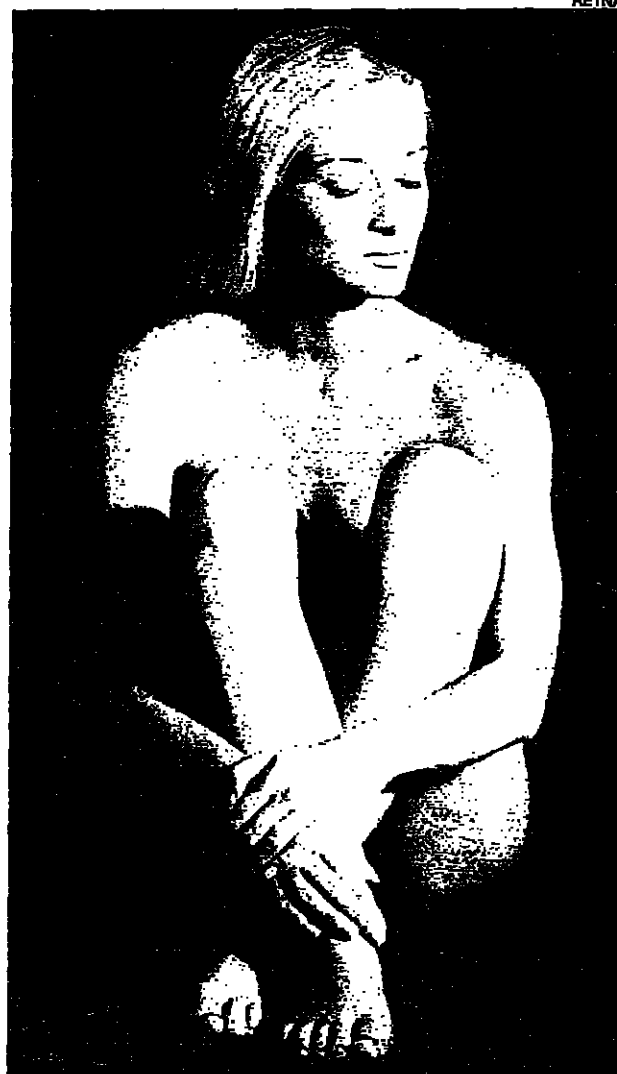
Psychotherapy involves using food as a form of medicine. For foods contain chemicals

— apart from antioxidants — which protect against age-related diseases. Cheese, fish, and nuts, for example, contain high levels of calcium which protects against osteoporosis. More than 300 foods contain a type of oestrogen which is thought to help to prevent breast and prostate cancers and heart disease. High-fibre foods such as vegetables and wholegrains also help to protect against several types of cancer, as do foods rich in selenium (nuts, tuna, liver), zinc (oysters, crabmeat, pumpkin seeds) and magnesium (nuts, yeast and brown rice).

Your risk of heart disease and colon cancer can be reduced by taking a small daily dose of aspirin. Alternatively, you can find a natural aspirin-like compound in blueberries, cherries, currants, curry powder and dried dates. Senile dementia may be prevented by a diet rich in B vitamins (yeast, meat, eggs) while late-onset diabetes can usually be controlled by a diet low in sugar and high in fibre.

Men who want to keep their sperm agile and plentiful can help by eating lots of vitamin C-rich foods (all fruit and vegetables). Heart disease is largely a diet-related problem: a low-fat, high-fibre diet will cut the risk dramatically.

Again there is no need to memorise each individual food component: as with antioxidants, it is enough simply to eat a Mediterranean-type



Your choice of foods is important in looking young

diet, with a few additions to take account of individual susceptibility.

If, for example, you are small, frail and female, you may do well to eat extra dairy products in order to boost your level of calcium.

It is also worth remembering that enjoying food is important. Some experts even think the health benefits from the release of endorphins — brain chemicals which make you feel happy — which comes

from eating an occasional nice-but-naughty snack may outweigh the bad effect of the sugar-laden fat in the treat itself.

So the simple rules for eating are: eat less; eat fresh; eat roughage; eat less fat, less sugar and more fish and more grains. Plus, of course, eat a little of what you fancy. That way, with a little luck, you too will live to be as old as granny.

RITA CARTER

### ANTI-AGEING PILL

SEVERAL substances are currently undergoing trials to see if any of them will provide an anti-ageing potion.

**□ Pimagedine**  
When glucose comes into contact with the protein in our cells it triggers a reaction which effectively "cooks" our tissues, causing them to become stiff and cloudy. This causes cataracts and is also partly responsible for age-related joint stiffening. Pimagedine prevents this reaction from taking place.

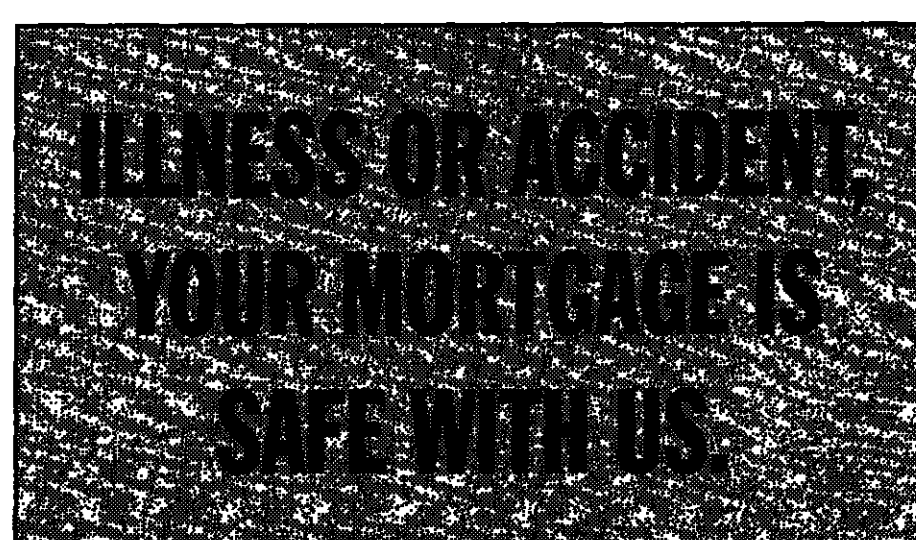
**□ Phenylbutyl nitrate**  
This is a molecule which halts destructive free radicals in their tracks. Research has shown that it helps to protect against strokes and age-related brain deterioration. It is hoped that PBN may provide a treatment for Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases.

**□ Dehydroepiandrosterone**  
This is a hormone which peaks at the age of 30 then decreases with age. In laboratory animals it appears to prevent obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular disease, and to combat age-related immune function disorders.

**□ Superoxide dismutase**  
This is a protein which protects cell walls from damage by oxidation. It is currently being tested by surgeons to see if it can reduce damage done by air to exposed body tissues during lengthy operations.

### HEALTH OFFER

£80,000 worth of free health club memberships to be won in our prize draw  
Page 8



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## Architect gets back to the drawing board

A new drug is reducing the severe pain of bone cancer

President Mitterrand died after a prolonged battle against cancer of the prostate. In many Western countries, this is already the second most common cancer to cause death in men — and a recent report suggested that, in the next 20 years, its incidence would double.

In Mitterrand's case, as usually happens with cancer of the prostate, the tumour spread to his bones. The pain from cancer of the bone in these cases is usually treated initially with hormonal therapy and/or direct radiotherapy, which shrivels the tumours. In the past, the pain has often proved intractable once radiotherapy and hormonal treatment have lost their power. Narcotics, although helpful, are not as effective as they are in many other cancers.

Yet the news is not all gloomy. Early diagnosis of cancer of the prostate has become easier since the introduction of the PSA (prostatic specific antigen) blood test, which helps doctors to distinguish benign from malignant enlargement of the gland. Treatment is improving, and now Metastrom — strontium 89 chloride, a radioisotope — is being marketed for the relief of bone pain once it is no longer controlled by other means.

Metastrom has the advantage of reaching all the bony deposits, as it is not always possible to give localised radiotherapy to each one. It is administered in outpatients departments as a single intravenous infusion, and the patient notices few if any side-effects.

At present, Metastrom is prescribed for the relief of pain only at a late stage of disease, when the tumour has escaped from hormonal control. Used in this way, the drug seems to have had no statistical effect on long-term survival — but its injection, as well as relieving pain in existing bony tumours, does result in a striking reduction in the number of new sites where pain might develop, and thereby improves quality of life.

One 50-year-old architect is very grateful for the advent of Metastrom. He was suffering severe pain from prostatic cancer which

had spread to his skull and spine. It was so bad that he could no longer sit at his desk or dining-room table, or in his car. Around the house he was confined to a wheelchair, he could be transported to hospital only by ambulance, had not been to work for months and had lost his appetite. Fifteen months after his single treatment he is free from pain, looks plump, is back at work and, amazingly, has resumed his morning PT. His PSA has fallen from 140.8 to 0.02 units.

Few patients can expect to respond quite so dramatically to Metastrom, but 20 per cent with painful bony secondary tumours will lose all their pain, abandon their powerful painkillers and be able to return to work.

Another 60 per cent will obtain some relief, but in 20 per cent of cases there is disappointingly no response.

Effective pain relief from each injection lasts for six months on average, but treatment can be repeated at quarterly intervals if necessary.

In Britain Metastrom, manufactured by Amersham Health Care and distributed by Zenica (formerly ICI), is licensed only for use in cases of advanced cancer of the prostate — but enough patients have responded in the same way as the architect to warrant research into its use earlier in the course of the disease. Trials are now being carried out to test Metastrom's value if given immediately after diagnosis, or if the PSA starts to rise after treatment.

In America, the Food and Drug Administration has given approval for the use of Metastrom for the relief of pain in all cases of bony cancer. A recent report from Amersham Health Care shows that in the US, 30 per cent of the Metastrom imported is used to treat advanced breast cancer, and that it is also frequently prescribed for patients with myeloma.

In Britain, if specialist doctors want to give Metastrom to patients who are suffering from forms of cancer other than prostatic tumours, they can do so if they make special arrangements with the authorities.



DR THOMAS STUTTFORD

# ME: is this the answer?



The space programme showed that enforced inactivity causes drastic changes to muscle and bone, as well as increasing depression. Now more active treatment is recommended

MYALGIC encephalomyelitis (ME), or chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS) as we should now call it, is usually characterised as controversial, difficult to diagnose, debilitating and difficult to treat. The first three are true, but reports that sufferers have little to look forward to other than years of disability are happily being contradicted. At last doctors can report promising treatment.

Turn to any medical textbook and, if they mention CFS at all, it will be with such phrases as "symptomatic management" or "supportive treatment" — medical euphemisms for nothing much to be done. Turn to the popular literature and you will usually also find nothing or, to be more precise, injunctions to do nothing. I was recently sent an American book that advertised itself as the *Official Handbook of the CFS Network*. It contained a section called "Rest, rest and more rest", and introduced something known as "Aggressive therapy". Nowadays few British self-help guides would go that far, but rest remains at the centre of advice given to sufferers.

Unfortunately, like any other treatment, rest is not without its side-effects. Since the days of the space programme scientists have documented the drastic changes that happen to muscle, bone and heart from enforced rest — muscles can alter their biochemistry and metabolism within hours of enforced inactivity. The psychological consequences are as profound — frustration, fear, demoralisation and depression. About 50 per cent of the CFS patients we see in our specialist clinic are depressed — I am sometimes surprised it is not more.

Sufferers are told so emphatically to rest because in

**S**ufferers from ME are usually ordered to do nothing but rest. Dr Simon Wessely describes an alternative showing good results

the short term rest works — it reduces symptoms. The cost is long-term problems. Too often we see people in whom overzealous advice to rest has turned what might have been a self-limiting illness into a long battle with disability.

But this week's *British Medical Journal* brings some hope. Researchers in the Department of Medicine and Psychiatry at Oxford University have published a randomised controlled trial of a structured rehabilitation programme for CFS. One year later 73 per cent of those receiving the active treatment had done well, with the attainment of near normal functioning, compared with only 23 per cent of those receiving standard medical care.

The treatment (called cognitive behaviour therapy) is based on a very simple idea — that regardless of what starts an illness, which in this case might be glandular fever, stress or an unknown cause, something else may be the reason why people fail to recover. It is also pragmatic — therapists and patient work together in experiments to see what actually helps.

This is not the first time cognitive behaviour therapy has been used to treat CFS, but Dr Michael Sharpe and his

Oxford team have provided a randomised controlled trial. It is not a flash in the pan either — at King's College Hospital my colleagues and I have also completed a controlled trial of the same treatment with equally promising results.

The treatment begins with an interview which may last up to three hours with each patient. The doctor takes a full history, listening carefully and providing sensible explanations. Often it is the first time that the patient's condition has been taken seriously, and it is an essential part of building confidence.

The next stage is to try to introduce some predictability and consistency into sufferers' lives. Nearly everyone that I see with chronic fatigue has adopted their own particular method of coping with the illness. They tend to rest for a few hours or days, in the belief that this saves up energy (unfortunately energy is not a commodity that can be rationed in this manner). This is followed by a burst of activity, often out of frustration more than anything else. This leads to a period of exhaustion, necessitating more days or even weeks of rest, until another burst is attempted.

Sufferers can remain in this state, yo-yoing from too much

to too little activity, for years. The treatment offers a way out by balancing activity and rest. No more doing too much, so no need to do too little either. Only then, when the sufferer feels comfortable, is it time to start a programme of cautious, planned increases in activity, spread over weeks and months. It is also important to consider the psychological side of the illness — are there emotional factors such as fear or depression which need treatment?

This is not a panacea or miracle cure, and it doesn't work for everyone. But it does offer a realistic and safe method of improving the quality of life and starting sufferers on the road back to health.

The *BMJ* report concludes that the results do not tell us the cause of CFS, but instead indicate that disability in patients with the condition is not fixed, and that a return to relatively normal functioning is possible for the majority.

Given the controversial nature of chronic fatigue syndrome, not everyone will welcome this news. Those doctors who don't believe it exists will see this as much ado about nothing.

From the opposite side some activists will view it as a thinly disguised way of saying CFS is "all in the mind". Both views, curiously alike in their denigration of any illness or treatment that needs more complex explanations than a simple virus, are ill-informed and unhelpful.

It would be encouraging to think that such prejudices will be overcome by the evidence of two randomised trials.

Dr Simon Wessely is director of the CFS Research Unit at King's College Hospital. Patients wishing to be seen at the unit need an NHS referral.

Rest can reduce symptoms — but only in the short term

Dr Bruce Charlton on the mystery of the rise in coronary heart disease

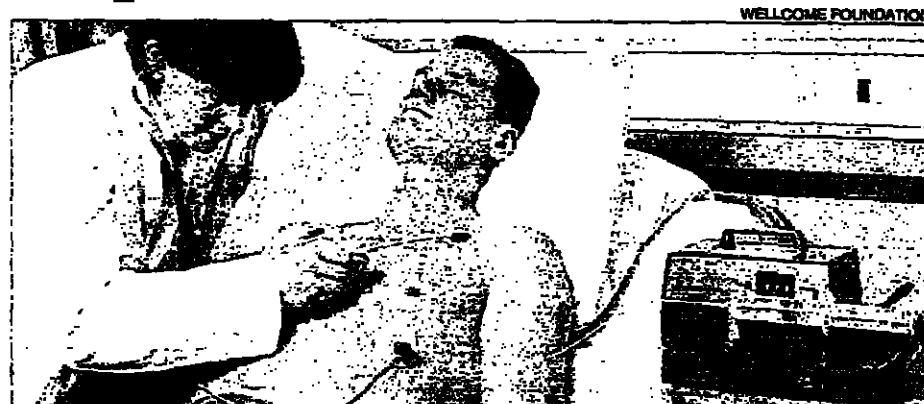
## The heart epidemic that never was

EVERYBODY knows that there has been an epidemic of coronary heart disease (CHD) in Britain and other Western countries. Hardly diagnosed at the beginning of the century, heart disease is the commonest cause of death.

Most true epidemics are the result of exposure to a new environmental hazard such as an infectious disease or a toxin. But despite vast research efforts, nothing convincing has ever emerged to explain either the rise of heart disease or its current rapid decline.

But what if there never was an epidemic? What if the rise in CHD were due not to a new health hazard, but to the removal of old ones? This is what William Stehbens, Professor of Pathology from Wellington, New Zealand, claims in an article in the latest issue of *Medical Hypotheses*.

As befits a pathologist, Professor Stehbens subjects the evidence to rigorous post-mortem analysis. It is difficult to establish the reality of even a contemporary, supposed acute epidemic (such as meningitis or asthma), because of problems with unreliable data collection, changes in diagnostic sensitivity and public



Checking heart rate: did health improvements cause the rise in strokes and coronaries?

awareness, and advances in clinical and laboratory practice. When such difficulties are spread over many years, he argues that the sources of inaccuracy multiply and render data virtually useless.

And most of the evidence to suggest a CHD epidemic comes from death certificates, a source of data with a poor reputation for quality. Indeed, Professor Alvan Feinstein of Yale University has called for an end to such research, declaring the results to be merely "processed garbage".

But it still remains to explain the fact that CHD mortality rose throughout the

century. If it was not an epidemic, then what was the cause? Professor Stehbens suggests that the increased mortality rate from CHD was actually a consequence of health improvements. More people now live to an age where hardening of the arteries becomes a problem — leading to a great likelihood of heart attacks and strokes. And since the introduction of antibiotics fewer people die of infectious disease, so that deaths from other causes (including CHD) were almost bound to increase.

So there never was an "epidemic" of CHD, and the

apparent risk of dying from a heart attack went up only because the risk of getting other diseases went down. Whether this is sufficient to explain the whole CHD epidemic is uncertain — it may imply that the rise was real but smaller than believed.

But Professor Stehbens shows the extreme difficulty of understanding historical trends in disease. Claims of long-term changes in mortality are frequently rhetoric rather than reportage.

Dr Bruce Charlton is a lecturer in epidemiology and public health at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne.

### CASE STUDY

Susan was a 24-year-old librarian referred by her GP with a four-year history of severe physical and mental fatigue after glandular fever. She had been unable to work for the past year, and was now living with her parents. She spent most of the day resting on or in bed, or watching television. She found it difficult to concentrate, and had little in the way of social life. Although she was previously "sporty", this was now impossible.

Her sleep was poor, and rarely refreshing. She usually needed to "catch up" by sleeping late in the morning and taking naps in the afternoon. She was exhausted by minimal exertion — activities such as washing her hair, sitting up in a chair, holding a cup or talking to her family. She occasionally had "good days" when she would visit her friends or go to the shops, but always paid for such bursts of activity with an increase in fatigue and muscle pain.

She was willing to attempt a cognitive behavioural approach, but admitted she had little confidence in it, since after repeated, unsuccessful attempts to resume a normal life, she felt frustrated and demoralised, and believed she would have to resign herself to living within strict limits.

The initial set of targets agreed with Susan and her

parents included walking around the garden unaided for two minutes three times a day, standing up to make herself a hot drink five times a day, and chatting to a friend on the telephone ten minutes daily. We asked her to get up at 10.30am, not to nap during the day. This proved very difficult at first, but after three or four weeks she noticed an improvement in the quality of her sleep at night. Despite slow start she made increasingly good progress as weeks went by.

We warned that she might still experience some aches after activity, but that it would disappear. By the time treatment ended she was going out in the evening, trying to eat a lunch every day, studying French for a hour a day and swimming twice a week. She was walking a quarter of a mile to the local library a day.

Her fatigue had receded although it never went completely. She was more optimistic about the future, and was more confident that she would be able to manage her symptoms.

She was followed up a further six months, during which time she continued to carry out a self-directed treatment programme year after year she had left her studies and was studying modern languages at college.

She paid for bursts of activity with an increase in pain

INSIDE SECTION  
2

Thirty years of sleaze: A new BBC TV drama series looks at the seamy side of British public life. Page 33

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# Why home-school contracts will fail our children



Parents could soon have to sign agreements to ensure their children attend school and do homework. But there is a serious flaw, says Nigella Lawson

The most blistering attack the Conservatives have been able to make on Labour's party policy until now is that it doesn't exist, or (b) if it is, it is not what the Conservatives want. The obvious flaw about which is the most convincing line to take is that it should, really, be able to tell the difference and would certainly be better advised, if not to pretend one could.

Now John Major, having seen how successful Tony Blair has been with strategy (b), has decided to plump for a cross-party policy-punching himself. Some time ago, the Labour Party proposed a form of home-school contract, by which parents would agree to do their bit to ensure their children's attendance at school and make sure they completed their homework.

Local authorities are under an obligation to educate the children in their constituency and that obligation cannot be waived simply because parents won't sign a piece of paper promising to oversee their homework. If we are beginning to say that children of negligent parents don't deserve to be educated, then why are we even pretending to have a universal state education system? Although, come to think of it, we are not pretending very hard at the moment.

All private day-schools issue a contract to parents in one shape or form, although more often than not the only signatures required are scrawled parental initials to confirm that the required amount of homework-time has been spent. For the rest, the obligations of the child and the parent are made clear on admission. And it all works beautifully.

State schools can't just expel pupils they don't like

Officially, not much more has been said about these contracts in the Conservative manifesto, but it is not that alone which makes me conclude that we are seeing here the re-emergence of the old idea.

It is not that contracts aren't great ideas. Most people who head teachers' strong arm — are convinced that contracts are a Good Thing. Parents must take responsibility for their children's conduct — which is not necessarily the same thing as taking blame — and be willing to accept that they do have a role to play in ensuring their children turn up for school, do the work the school set them and abide by the rules, not just of school, but of society. Parents bring their children into the world and have a duty to equip them for it as best they can. Teachers are there to teach something even more far-reaching.

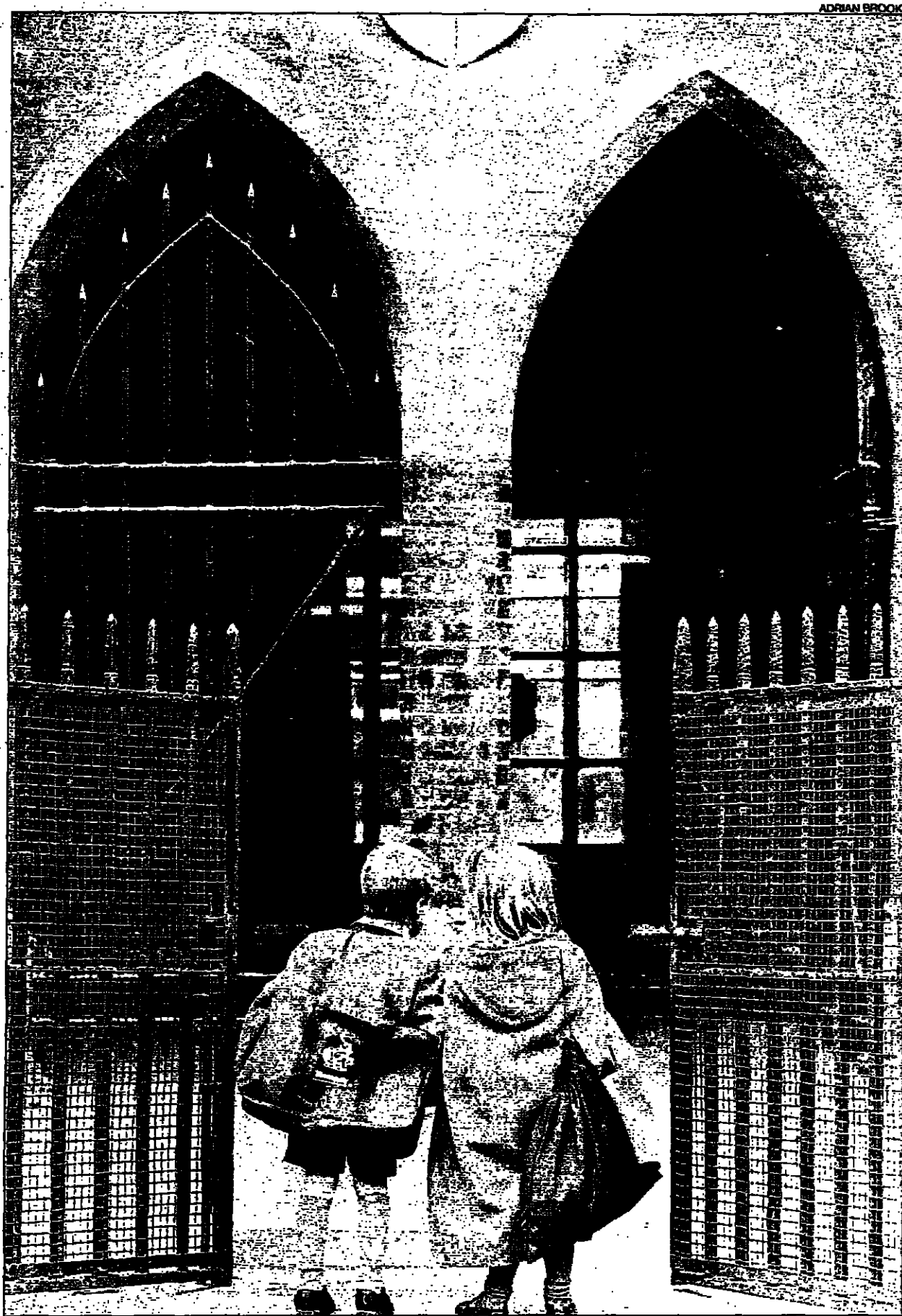
But the only sort of contract that can work is, in effect, a verbal one, the sort Sam Goldwyn described as not worth the paper it's written on. Sounds emanating from No 10 suggest that something a little more stringent is desirable. Mr Major would appear to want a formal contract to be offered by schools and signed by parents as a condition for admission to them.

Thus, the whole idea is rendered null and void. It

considerations are rather different. And, quite apart from anything else, the difference between a fee-paying school and a state one is that a private school can refuse entry or later eject anyone it doesn't wish to include among its number. A state school cannot just expel a pupil and, if it could, it wouldn't change anything.

The flaw in the Major version of the home-school contract is that the only effect that removing "undesirable" pupils from certain schools would have would be, momentarily, to improve the averages at that particular school. For a man so fond of league tables and charts, I can see the attraction. But, in fact, all this drawing up of contracts by the chartering classes so far has not, for example, stopped your train running late or ensured you get your hip operation in time. All it has done is provide a conduit for your discontent.

If a child whose parents will not comply is removed from one school, then another school must take him or her. The idea that all state schools can be turned into St Paul's just by getting rid of those with bad performances or poor attitudes (or those of their parents) is ludicrous — and irresponsible. All it does is



Will parents have to sign a contract before their children can attend school? And what happens to those who won't?

shunt the problem along. Expelled children have to go somewhere, and the one place you don't want them is on the streets.

Mr Blair's proposal for some sort of avowal of good faith on the part of parents, in exchange for a declaration of duties by the teachers, is obviously right in principle. But beyond that one wonders whether it will have any effect whatsoever. That is to say, those parents who are in agreement are probably doing their bit already, and those who don't care are not going to be turned into Ma and Pa Walton at the Labour leader's request.

It is difficult: a contract with

no binding implications is not really a contract, but one that is made statutory is as impossible as it is undesirable. Rightly, we tend to think that it is the province of tinpot dictators to go about creating ever-new categories of criminal. And the idea of forcing parents to police their children as they themselves are being policed by the State is ridiculous and rebarbative. But still, I do think on balance it is probably better to state out loud what one thinks everyone's rights and duties are, and what they entail.

The real difficulty, and this is something that no politician, whether red or blue — or, as it might be, pink or grey — could broach, is that the whole ethos of this country is anti-intellectual, and by extension suspi-

cious of education. I spoke above of middle-class anxieties about educational standards, but only among the English is a desire for educational attainment so peculiarly thought of as middle-class pomposity. The poorest immigrant family will urge their children to study in school and study at home. And school results bear this out. Only the English will, as a point of pride, disdain all efforts to improve oneself as swank or pretension. Interestingly, the Scottish are not like that: perhaps that is the key to Mr Blair's strength.

That apart, if Mr Major really thinks that the solution lies with a contract, then perhaps he should consider taking out the other sort of contract. The only quick way to get rid of problem pupils

once and for all would be to issue all head teachers with machineguns and get them to round up the difficult and undesirable pupils in the playground at break and take them out.

## When ethnic origins cause mental problems

Quentin Letts on the official recognition of cultural ailments

It is official: Latins are extrovert, West Indians are prone to inaction, and Malays tend to run amok. The American Psychiatric Association (APA) has for the first time notified its members that people of different cultural backgrounds can have different mental problems. In a new set of guidelines, the association has stated that mental-health experts should in future consider patients' cultural and ethnic origins before diagnosis or treatment. The news, unpalatable as it might be to America's melting-pot race theorists, is a triumph for a New York psychiatrist who has long campaigned for cultural diagnosis.

Dr Juan Mezrich, 49, works at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York, but was born and bred in Peru. His origins have given him a sympathy for the sort of psychiatric wobbles that can afflict people of strong cultural identities, even when living in the West. For South America is the land of *susto* (soul loss) and *ataque de nervios* (attack of the nerves), when unhappiness and sickness are caused by true or imaginary terrors.

To the Western-trained clinician these illnesses may sound like bunkum. But they are to be taken seriously. A list of cultural syndromes has appeared in the latest *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*, published by the APA.

It reads not unlike the notebook of a Victorian explorer. Listed are such mental ailments as Malaysian *koro* (the sexual organ, because of intense anxiety, will recede into the body and possibly cause death) and West African *brain fog* (mental fatigue, leading to blurred vision and depression). Even the Japanese, often perceived as cool to the point of impermeability, have a cultural syndrome, *taijin kyofusho*, which is effectively a dread of embarrassment.

Dr Mezrich, who chairs the cultural diagnosis committee of America's National Institute of Mental Health, argues that there is nothing racist in the description of such illnesses. "It is simply that culture informs disorders," he says. In the US and other Western countries, for instance, cultural diagnostic

experts point to anorexia nervosa, or identity disorders. These can be ascribed to the West's emphasis on personal image. To treat these illnesses you must understand the culture, say the experts.

Recommended treatment involves surrounding the patient with family or members of the same ethnic origins, who will understand what the patient is going through. Dr Mezrich took this course with a South American patient suffering from *susto* after the death of a favourite uncle. Dr Mezrich realised that in her culture it was traditional for group mourning to be held on the death of a close friend or relation. He duly rallied the



Latins tend to excitability

woman's family. A wake was held and within days the woman was on the road to recovery.

How about the British? "In London, you are likely to have cultural syndromes as much as in a city like New York," says Dr Mezrich. British phlegm may present its own problems, but we have nothing as spectacular as, for example, the Chinese *shen-kwei* ("life-threatening" loss of semen, caused by anxiety). However, "these illnesses occur not only in distant lands," says Dr Mezrich. "They are also here in the suburbs."

And those Malays? The old staff style-book of one national newspaper, in an effort to cut cliché-mongering, used to instruct rookie reporters that "only Malays can run amok". The association's manual takes a different line. The Malays are prone to "a period of brooding followed by an outburst of aggressive or homicidal behaviour". But it adds that the syndrome is also detected in the denizens of Laos, the Philippines, Polynesia, Papua New Guinea, Puerto Rico and among the Navajo Indians. There is a lot of it about.

## They schmooze, therefore they are



Giles Coren in search of a new social group: the schmoozeoisie

AFTER THE Yuppies and the Nimbys, the Dweeps, Waspes, and Simpkins, you might have thought we had had all the American social classifications we could handle. However, we are about to witness the ascendancy of a mere group, but of a few class, one

of which Karl Marx never dreamt: the schmoozeoisie. They are with us already, and you know them: Angus Deayton, Clive Anderson, Wogan, Aspel, Tony Blair, Melvyn Bragg, anyone who appears on *This Morning*. For them, to schmooze is to live.

"The schmoozeoisie is a rapidly expanding class which makes its living by talk, on radio or television," says Anne Soukhano, executive editor of the *American Heritage Dictionary*, who legitimised the word in her book of new coinages, *Word Watch*, published in America last year.

"It was coined in the *Boston Globe* in 1992, by a Professor of English called Paul Lewis," she says. "The US media caught on and it is now common currency." It is already beginning to take hold in Britain. So what does it mean?

There is a problem with translation, in that it is a mongrel portmanteau word drawn from Yiddish, American slang and French. Schmooze cannot adequately be rendered as gossip (with a hint of "buttering up") any more than schlep, or schmaltz, or schtick can be expressed concisely in English.

Nor are there set rules on spelling — schmooze, schmooz, schmuss, schmooze are all equally admissible. It suggests talking because you think you are good at it, think it might be advantageous to you, and have nothing better to do. For

the schmoozeoisie, it is the locus of power.

"A huge sector of middle-class Americans is fixated with talking," says Ms Soukhano. "Newstalk radio is the most popular kind of show, Oprah is the schmooze queen, and the Government is all



Edwina Currie and Angus Deayton

schmoozeocrats, taking trillions and giving back talk. Gore and Clinton schmooze, Reagan never did."

The same model can be applied in Britain. Tony Blair is schmoozeoisie, but the Prime Minister is not. Largely because Blair, like Clinton, is capable of doing it. Major, like Reagan, is not.

John Redwood. Then the chat monarchs: Frost, Wogan, Aspel, Bragg, Rantzen, Anderson. And, of course, Angus Deayton, whose show might as well be called *Have I Got Schmooze For You?*

The rank below takes in habitual "guests" — Peter Stringfellow, Willie Rushton, Rabbi Hugo Grinn, Fiona Fullerton — and lesser chat gurus: Loyd Grossman, Kilroy, and Anne Robinson. Below them are the phone-in addicts.

Ms Soukhano also offers a name I would not dare propose. "The Princess of Wales has joined your schmoozeoisie. She used talk to try to improve her position. And Charles did the same."

And yet the schmoozeoisie is nothing new. Think of *King Lear*. Did not Goneril and Regan schmooze their way to a share of the kingdom while Cordelia stood silent and relinquished Britain to the dark clutches of the schmoozeoisie?

In a classless society, with a fragile monarchy, we are entering an age when one's rank in the schmoozeoisie is all-important. Beware the tragedy of King Melvyn.

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# Mitterrand, the French Machiavelli

Charles Bremner on the illusionist who bewitched France

Searching for the measure of François Mitterrand yesterday, French television made much of a remark by Baroness Thatcher. The woman whom the former French President once defined as a blend of Caligula and Marilyn Monroe was quoted as calling him one of the few men who had never betrayed her. For all their duelling over Europe, she has never forgotten a Saturday in 1982 when the Socialist President brushed aside the advisers who wanted to make capital with the Third World and sided with London rather than Argentina over the Falklands.

That act was deemed a betrayal by much of the French Left, the force which Mitterrand had harnessed to carry him to power. But betrayal — or, as he preferred to call it, the art of the unexpected — was Mitterrand's hallmark throughout half a century in or around high office.

The boy from a provincial Roman Catholic bourgeois family insisted in his dying days that he had stayed faithful to the humanist ideals of his youth, but his journey led him through giddy shifts of allegiance which bewildered followers while earning respect for his deviousness.

He has left the political dirty work to others

The list of desertions was long, from the service to both Vichy France and the Resistance to the intrigues of the Fourth Republic, which he served as a centrist minister, through to the Socialist cause itself. Most of those left by the wayside, from former prime ministers to his multitude of feminine conquests, nursed their bitterness in private. A few went public, notably the two lieutenants who in the past three years have chosen to prove their chagrin through suicide: Pierre Bérégovoy, the last Socialist Prime Minister, and François de Grossouvre, his one-time palace fixer. It was de Grossouvre's death in the Elysée Palace two years ago which most spoke for the sulphur and decay that stained the closing months of the presidency.

Many outside France marvelled at how after being disgraced for faking a murder attempt against himself in 1959, Mitterrand came back in the 1970s to win the affection of the country and be twice elected to the seven-year presidency. His power sprang from two sources. He was an extraordinary seducer, a mixture of intellect and charm which could silence adversaries. And he was a master tactician and a political killer who enjoyed nothing better than dispatching his rivals and even allies.

The rough and tumble of an Anglo-Saxon political life would have irrimed Mitterrand's Bonapartist tendencies, but a presidential system requires a leader to cultivate his mystique. The solitary Florentin, as he was known in deference to his Machiavellian wiles, could convey the pomp of power while keeping an ironic distance. He would flatter by seeming to take one into his confidence, musing in

his acid and literary way on the vagaries of life and politics. "Of course it is only power that matters," he said late one night in 1982. "You can do nothing without it. That's why I admire Thatcher."

Even in his final year, stricken with cancer, he could not resist the impulse to win over his compatriots with wry commentary on his imminent death. We are all passengers on an airliner (he would say), happily sipping the champagne in the certain knowledge we are flying into a mountain. His performances won much admiration.

The showman President made his supporters swallow a lot over the years, sometimes to the benefit of his country and the world beyond. It is hard, in these post-communist days, to recall the exaltation on the Left that greeted the Mitterrand victory of May 10, 1981. For the generation of 1968, the teachers and civil service workers and the unions, the triumph was less an election than a revolution against a hated *ancien régime*. Thousands were busy packing their money off to Switzerland on the day that Mitterrand launched his rule with a pilgrimage to the leftist saints in respect for his deviousness.

Within two years, he had strangled the Communist Party, Moscow's loyal ally, thrown the Socialist economic programme into reverse and sided with President Reagan against Moscow, appealing in the Bundestag for West Germany to accept American missiles on its territory. He also proved that the Fifth Republic was a truly stable democracy where the parties alternated in power.

It was one of the Mitterrand paradoxes that this bookish President used the Gaullist system which he had once reviled as a "permanent coup d'état", to assume a grandeur that outshone the General. President Chirac's attempts to strike a Gaullien pose are like a schoolboy's effort by comparison.

François Mitterrand said often enough that he wanted to go down in history as the builder of the new Europe of Maastricht, along with his friend, Helmut Kohl. Failing that, he made sure he would be remembered as the architect of the new Paris, by doing more to change the city's skyline than anyone since Napoleon III. Yet expensive monumental architecture is the only real cultural legacy of a President who devoted himself to the arts.

The dust has not even begun to settle after 14 years of Mitterrandism, but the historians may not be so generous as the old man's supporters. Their eulogies yesterday spoke of him as a giant and a statesman. His critics might reply that Mitterrand nursed illusions about France's destiny and allowed it to live beyond its means. He left to Chirac, his Gaullist successor, the dirty work that is necessary to fulfill the late President's vision of a peaceful and communitaire France.



STAKEHOLDER

## Top Cs, but no tiaras

The Royal Opera should use its exile to make converts across the country

To borrow for a moment the format of an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting or detox centre: my name is Elizabeth. I am 45 years old and I have a Royal Opera House habit.

I know it is not rational. I have tried to kick it. I know it does untold harm to my prosperity, street credibility and (given the ventilation problem) my body thermostat. As each subscription spree comes to an end I resolve to turn away from the rocco gliding and dodgy plumbing, the looming pompous red velvet curtains, the rising reek of wealth from the orchestra stalls and the seedy insistence of that amphitheatre side door on Floral Street. But every time the pushers get me back. They send me glossy brochures with covers showing oil-painted ellos and fruit and pediments. I open them and before I know where I am another vast wad of banknotes has changed hands and I am down for several hits of forgotten Verdi, a line of *Götterdämmerung* and a snort of *Così fan tutte*.

Like all party drugs, opera is variable in quality and unreliable in supply: sometimes it leaves me as elevated as I hoped or more so — emotionally stretched, opened up to feelings nobler and more mysterious than common life can bring. At other times (such as the magnificently mad *King Arthur* with wind-up flowers and trampolining haymakers, and four hours of untold heroic couplets) it threatens to extinguish all vital signs forever. But addicts are an easy market. You know how it is.

You must do, because were you not a fellow-operaholic or perhaps a ballet junkie, the words "Royal Opera House" would long ago have sent you fleeing to the Letters Page. We who stubbornly adore the place and the art find ourselves in the position of a girl with an unpopular boyfriend: we waste hours saying "No, honestly, plenty of ordinary people go, it's not all corporate-entertainment fat cats and foreigners, not at all," or just "You should try it, really, it's thrilling." Friends shrug coldly: some reject the medium of opera altogether as absurd and elitist; others shudder fastidiously and stalk off to some gritty alternative venue for a politically correct *Aida* set in 1920s Chicago or some such tomfoolery.

The shrugs have intensified since the House got its £55 million Lottery grant to knock down a mixed neighbourhood, abuse the Floral Hall and

build a curious Center-Parks-type structure with porches and an 85ft escalator. In short, the ROH may have a fine cortege of grand and wealthy friends but elsewhere it loses goodwill daily. The word is that the BBC documentaries starting next week will accelerate the process.

When the Opera House lost the prospect of a temporary theatre near Tower Bridge to cover the 1997-99 renovation of its home, there was no popular cry of protest. When, last weekend, its technical director talked of recession, cut budgets and disappearing sponsors, and other "insiders" warned that this cash and logistical crisis might close it down altogether for a spell, it was hard to find anyone in the street who was even faintly perturbed.

Which is a shame. For a great opera house and company is a national treasure. Its existence leads, inspires and feeds all the others, down to the newest and smallest regional outfit and beyond them to the amateurs. It is the gold standard, the heart of the art. The ROH orchestra, singers, dancers, conductors, directors, répétiteurs, scenery and costume teams must not be dispersed by mere homelessness.

At the moment, the idea seems to be that they will tour, putting on productions on much the same scale as at present. Keith Cooper, director of public affairs, told a newspaper at the weekend that the managers are "working out another kind of existence that is within our control. The option of closing would mean high redundancy and start-up costs. The board and management have committed themselves to keeping the show on the road". Pressed on the difficulty of getting the Pavarotis and Domingos, he firmly said: "Big stars will be contracted as they normally are... they know where places like Manchester and Birmingham are."

More of the same, then, only less so? There is a depressing doggedness about the idea. But suddenly it dawned on me that there is something else the Royal Opera House

could do: it could turn its homelessness into something glorious. It could use its two years of exile not to cobble together ill-tempered productions with haughty imported stars in theatres where it is not comfortable, but to diffuse itself, reach out its iridescent tentacles into every corner of our national life. It could dance gladly from its brick prison and teach under a tree: go out in small bands to make friends, followers and converts.

After all, when you are reading your £3.50 red glossy programme in the crush bar queue and grow tired of the crush bar queue and grow tired of trying to decide whether Arnold is Montecassino's brother-in-law disguised as Beppo or what, you will find a page marked "Aims and Aspirations", which includes not only the presentation of high-quality opera and ballet but a commitment to provide the widest possible access... to extend public understanding... to extend audiences". On the next page, "Outreach and Access", there is a modest account of what the education department does with schools, courses, hospitals, and so on. You will sense from this that although its decade of work is bragged about in the programme, the education department is still the untransfigured Cinderella of the outfit. You can also work out without much difficulty that the "100 events to inform and entertain Friends of Covent Garden" are not reaching out very far or very strenuously. The well-bred ladies who decorously queue for a backstage tour or a lunchtime *Traviata* singalong (done that too) are not exactly a hard catch.

But freed from the arduous business of manning an opera house night after night, why should the whole burning talent of the company not concentrate — just for those two years and in between occasional grand performances in major cities — on reaching out more and more? Use some Lottery money to buy a fleet of minibuses — *Nessus Dornobiles* perhaps — in which posers of musicians, singers, dancers, designers and directors could descend on every remote rural community school, scabrous inner-city hall and suburban golf club. Children, pensioners, youth clubs and weary commuters could be swept up in a craze of DIY opera; enthused, amused, educated, inspired. It would work: not only because it is proven that if offered the great tunes, the veriest oaf will gladly hum them. It will work because it always does. I have spent magical days watching ROH director Richard Gregson and his colleagues make children whose horizon had been bounded by Michael Jackson perform short operas; the emotional force of music-drama held even the hardest cases in thrall through a ten-hour day. I have taken part in *La traviata* during one of the lamentably rare ROH weekend workshops, being shown how a chorus is made to move and flow naturally even while singing the twiddle bits. Around me were serious amateur singers and rank beginners, led by Covent Garden principals and disciplined to an approximation of professional standards.

After such an event, whether in a school or an adult group, everybody glows and hyperventilates with enthusiasm. I had thought before the *Traviata* weekend that the drama would be hopelessly diluted by a gang of amateur singers and a lone piano; but under passionate tutelage we forgot the lack of orchestra or stage, and entered into the essential spirit of the piece, so that ever since I have heard and viewed it infinitely more richly. Most of the participants had never been to the ROH and would have been shy to: but it came to them, and sowed an undying loyalty.

You see what could be done? Just for two years, forget Pavarotti and Domingo and Sharon Sweet, the grand scale and the high budget and the footman with the big bouquet. Let the tail wag the dog, the education department lead. Hit the road, do a hundred small gigs instead of one big one. Bring us nothing but your talent and knowledge and a promise of how wonderful it will be when you go full-scale and full-stage again for the millennium. Go on, I dare you. Try it.

They won't. Far more likely to cut down "outreach" to pay for a series of depressing London theatres and overpriced tenors. But up here in the amphitheatre, here in the provinces, we can dream.

## Staking a claim to power

Frank Field on

Tony Blair's big idea for Labour

It is difficult to overestimate the importance of Tony Blair's speech yesterday in Singapore on stakeholder democracy. A nation of stakeholders is clearly going to be the theme that Labour puts to the electorate. It fits in with Tony Blair's wish to see Britain as a young country again. It commits Labour to a new way of rebuilding our political, industrial and welfare institutions. But is this just another buzzword which will leave very little impression once all the hubbub has died down? Or will it give a new coherence to Labour's programme? And how does it differ from the idea of a property-owning shareholding democracy? In one sense, the concept is the child of the early postwar drive towards a property-owning and shareholding democracy. The idea is for a strategy which makes a real difference to the world of welfare, education and of work, as home-owning has made to most people's private lives.

The biggest welfare reform has to be of pensions. How can we make second pensions universal? The only sensible way to advance is to bring in a system of compulsory savings which will be gradually built up over time for those of us who are not currently members of a company or personal pension scheme. But the electorate is unlikely to back the idea of compulsory savings under existing welfare rules. People will rightly want to own their own savings. This leads to the idea of stakeholders: organisations, such as mutual aid funds, which would offer this possibility. Other individuals might wish to invest their savings in existing private companies, but whatever option is chosen, the reform would usher in lifetime savings and pension accounts owned by the individuals themselves. Moreover, the scheme would become universal only if stakeholder status were extended to those outside the labour market. The idea then is for these groups to have their contributions paid by the Exchequer, provided that they fulfil clearly defined conditions.

Over time, compulsory savings would take the pressure off today's unfunded welfare bill. They would also raise the savings ratio and so begin to off-balance a new supply of long-term investment savings. Already, much of Labour's policy is in place and only presented in stakeholder terms. The emphasis Tony Blair has given to raising Britain's skill level would be reinforced by the idea of stakeholders' accounts. This would detail a minimum package of education offers from nursery through to university. Individuals need not have access to the latter part of this package while they are teenagers. Rather, the offer would be a lifetime account, which fits easily into the evolution of Labour policy. Individuals might also have access to their lifetime savings and pension accounts, not merely for house deposits, but for training investment as well.

Stakeholding would make a reality of the NHS being our health service — which patently it has not been up to now. With a universalised *nus* status system, the boards could be elected at the same time as local authorities. This reform would itself open up the possibility of a hypothecated health tax. Such a reform would provide the scheme with a clear money-raising mechanism to match the service rationing which the Tory reforms have made transparent for the first time.

It is crucial to move away from the present welfare structure, which increasingly depends on means-tested support. The current system feeds both fraud and the dependency culture. Under stakeholders' welfare, self-improvement would again be put at the centre of Labour's policies. A reconstituted National Insurance scheme, with benefits more clearly linked to contributions, would also open the door to a contributor-run organisation. Such a reform would illustrate again that universal services can be provided which are not run by the State.

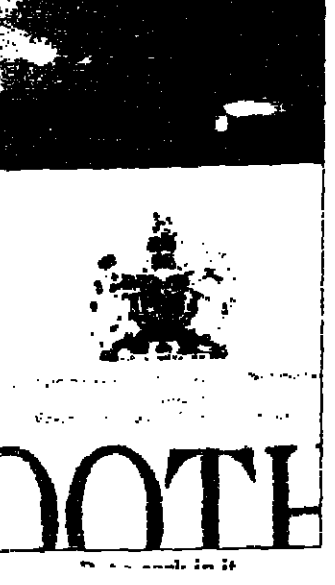
The public is bored with much of what goes on under the heading of European politics and strategy. Voters feel that Britain is being pulled along behind a Franco-German centralisation exercise. The stakeholder idea offers Britain the chance to break free and set out for Europe a clear alternative. Stakeholding is in essence a policy of decentralisation, creating institutions which members themselves own and which, if they wish, they can themselves run.

It forges a new concept of citizenship. The advance of economic and social citizenship this century has been built on sand. The idea of stakeholding in welfare, health and education seeks to give a reality to the ideal of a Britain in which everyone has invested. It covers people's lifetime needs, not by mouthing terms like "frighis" — which have all too often turned out to be empty slogans — but with capital ownership and insurance schemes. The dominant theme of 20th-century Labour politics has been the wish to create an inclusive society in which everybody is a fully paid-up member. The idea of stakeholding offers to make this a reality. The author is MP for Birkenhead.

## Closed Booth

LESS GIN will be drunk in Buckingham Palace this year than last. If the latest roll-call of Royal Warrants of Appointment is anything to go by, The Queen has dropped Booth's from her shopping list.

Booth's finest has been a feature



of the pre-surreal chinwag at the Palace since before the First World War. "Certainly, they have had a record of supplying since 1911," explains the Royal Warrant Holders' Association. "And they may have started long before that."

Records show that the Booth family was distilling in the 18th century, and that Felix Booth, who gained sole control of the company in 1818, was a close friend of William IV, so he almost certainly provided him with a cup or two. Last year, Booth's Distilleries still enjoyed royal patronage, and was listed among the tradesmen supplying the department of the Master of the Household. But in the 1996 list Booth's does not feature.

"It's very disappointing," admits a spokesman for the brand, which is now owned by United Distillers. Last year, the Palace dropped another of United Distillers' products, Guinness, because less stout was being imbibed in court circles. But the company has its toe wedged firmly in the royal door — it still supplies Gordon's to the Queen as well as to one of the spirit's great patrons, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother.



There is considerable relief among ladies who work out at the House of Commons gym, now that the men's showers have been fixed. Until yesterday, regulars including Paddy Ashdown were forced to use the ladies' showers, risking blushes with the possibility of bumping into Edwina Currie.

### Out of joint

THE PAINTING which had art dealers reaching for the turps when Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber bought it for a record £18 million last year is to go on show this morning at the National Gallery. It will be the first public unveiling of Picasso's famous work from his Blue Period. *Portrait of Angel Fernandez de Soto*, since Lloyd Webber bought it at auction, *De Soto* is depicted as a confident but

ugly dandy with arched eyebrows, jutting chin, twisted mouth and projecting ear. Sir Andrew nevertheless finds it enchanting.

### Booked up

THE PRINCE of Wales will be thrilled by his bubbly former assistant private secretary, Belinda Harley, a lady with effusive charm. Despite her association with the highest in the land, she has taken a plunge to join the lower ranks for two days a week at the tabloid *Daily Express* — as literary editor.



Before her two-and-a-half years with the Prince, she spent many years in bookish circles. But court life taught her about literary serialisation — she was at the Prince's side week by revelatory week as Andrew Morton spilt the royal beans in *Diana: Her True Story*.

### Quackers

EVEN the quacking in the gardens behind the Elysée was muted yesterday when news rippled round the pond of the death of the famous duck-lover François Mitterrand. The President's friends in untold affection, and visited them daily to feed them. "When he left public office in May of last year," explains an Elysée source, "he gave Jacques Chirac a lecture. Not on the weighty matters of state, of course. On how to care for the ducks in the presidential pond — what to feed them and how to clean the water."

### Early riser

EMMA NICHOLSON is running scared. Not from John Major or even Michael Portillo, but from Lily Savage. At the last minute yesterday, she pulled out of a planned chat in bed with the beer-bibbing transvestite and her outrageous



Lily Savage unsuitable

wig for *The Big Breakfast*. By all accounts, she had agreed initially to appear under the duvet for the Wednesday show, but then realised that this wouldn't suit the image of a defuncting *Tory MP*. After all, when Michael Hutchence was under the covers on the same show being interviewed by Paula Yates, the electricity generated lit up the studio. P-H-S





## FRANCOIS MITTERRAND

A towering figure leaves a perilous legacy

President Mitterrand was by any standard, one of the most influential Europeans of his time. His death, like those of Konrad Adenauer and General de Gaulle, marks the end of a European era. In the case of many men, this would be a dutiful cliché. In the case of France and Mitterrand, it is not. For France, it marks a generational break with the Vichy years of which, before joining the Resistance in 1943, Mitterrand was a decorated servant. Mitterrand acknowledged his full role in Vichy only in 1994, with his death, France should be freer to look with frankness at the Occupation.

His death may also help the country shed the remnants of a still older political tradition: that of France's 19th-century Third Republic. Mitterrand is most often associated, and for good cause, with the political opportunism and *salon* deals of the Fourth Republic in which, just under 50 years ago, he launched his ministerial career. But his radical republicanism — the most enduring trait left by a lifetime of shifting political allegiances — owed even more to that earlier era.

Republicanism fired his opposition to the Fifth Republic of de Gaulle, whom he accused of a staging "permanent coup d'état". 19th-century ideas also underpinned his firm belief in a strictly interventionist state. Yet his 14-year tenure in the Elysée is best described as a reign the aide who once cut short a speech of welcome with the words "The President comes to speak, not to listen", encapsulated an aloofness close to arrogance. It was with the language and the methods of political habits that have served France ill that Mitterrand summoned Europe to its 21st-century destiny.

It will take time for new course to be set and for France to re-orient the health of its political institutions. Mitterrand so dominated French political life since 1981 that he became like a tree under which nothing grew. No mainstream politician is yet ready to question his master plan for "the construction of Europe", singled out yesterday for praise by his political opponent, President Chirac. Heideparts, in addition, better respected than he was for much of his political life. No encounter in Mitterrand's long political career was more carefully prepared than his rendezvous with death yesterday. For four years, he met the

pain and certain outcome of a fatal prostate cancer with great courage. His fortitude did much to efface for his countrymen his reputation as "the Florentine", the supreme and sometimes vindictive manipulator.

In one of the ruminative interviews he gave towards the end of his life, he declared that he wished to go down in history as the architect of domestic social peace and European unity. History, if it acknowledges that these were indeed the driving ambitions of this most impenetrable and devious of political actors, will present a stiff reckoning.

He leaves France a somewhat more modern, but certainly more troubled, society than it was in 1981, when he finally claimed the Elysée for the Socialist Party which he had embraced ten years before with the express aim of grooming it for power. He is sometimes credited with narrowing the ideological rift between Right and Left; but against that must be set the growth of support for Jean-Marie Le Pen's xenophobic extreme Right. This winter's turmoil in France has exposed how deep are the boils he has left others to lance.

Their virulence derives in part from the disrepute into which the scandal-ridden closing years of Mitterrand's presidency brought the country's political establishment. They are also a direct legacy of his repeated refusal when in office to put the considerable authority of the Elysée at the service of those in a long list of prime ministers, of Left as well as Right, who attempted controversial reforms. But the street protests are at least equally relevant to Mitterrand's larger claim on Fame's attention: the forced march to European Union on which he set out in the early 1980s.

For France, the costs of the *franc fort* policy which was the linchpin of the Mitterrand strategy for European Union are counted today in high unemployment, coupled with a deficit that has been swelled by the efforts of successive governments to cushion the social costs of years of competitive disinflation. His single-minded drive to curb Germany's growing power by enfolded it in France's tight embrace was damaging not just because of the strains it imposed on France. More important is that the destination he set is not one in which either French or Germans, let alone the rest of Europe, can find lasting ease.

## THE SELECT FEW

Even a small fast stream can help to improve a school

The news that comprehensive schools will be allowed to increase the proportion of pupils they select from 10 to 15 per cent might be expected to have no more than a trivial effect on state education. It buried in the new circular from the Education Secretary, Gillian Shephard, is a more radical departure: that the 15 per cent may now be selected on the basis of general aptitude as well as particular talent in music, art, drama, sport, technology or foreign languages. At a stroke, this removes the figleaf that helped politicians to pretend that specialisation in schools had nothing in common with selection.

Labour is all in favour of specialisation, but opposes selection. Yet aptitude in foreign languages or technology is extremely likely to be accompanied by aptitude in other, related academic subjects. And how are schools to choose the gifted linguists or potential engineers except by assessing their ability? This new guidance at last dispels the hypocrisy of claims that a school can specialise without selecting its pupils.

So Labour will have to do some hard thinking. If David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary, is sensible, he might cast aside some of the old shibboleths and welcome what is counterpoint to trying to do. For, by reserving 15 per cent of places for fast-stream pupils, socially deprived schools may be able to make themselves more attractive to parents, and selection by class in prosperous areas should be lessened.

Pure comprehensive schools admit pupils according to the distance of a child's home from school. Rather than ensuring statistically random admissions, however, this

merely leads to selection by house price. Middle-class residential areas produce middle-class schools; council estates are too often served by sink schools. Allowing an element of selection by ability into the middle-class schools would give poorer children an opportunity to attend them. And some inner-city deprived schools might be able to give themselves a boost by turning themselves into the specialist "magnet" schools that have been so successful in America.

Once a school has at least 15 per cent of very able children, the other 85 per cent benefit too. Teachers should become more motivated and the school's morale and reputation will grow as a result of shining in its specialist field or sending a higher proportion of pupils to university. Moreover, those pupils who are not selected by ability will still have a chance to move up into the fast stream. Far from being written off at the age of 11, they will have the opportunity to upgrade to grammar-school standards of teaching and learning within their own school.

The only danger of the new circular is its implicit acceptance of the parental interview as a method of selection. Children cannot choose their parents, and those who are able but have unsupportive parents would be doubly disadvantaged by this move. Conversely, pushy middle-class parents are no guarantor of ability or motivation in children. The fairest of all methods of selection for general aptitude is still an IQ test, combined perhaps with tests in English and maths. Children's ability should be allowed to speak for itself.

## RAIL ROMANCE REVIVED

Kent commuterland becomes the gateway to the wider world

Ashford, a prosperous market town in Kent, could become the Crewe of the 21st century. The 06.19 Eurostar from Waterloo yesterday became the first train to stop — intentionally — this side of the Channel when it drew up at Ashford International, the new southern gateway to the Continent. Nine international services will now call daily at the station, with services to Paris and Brussels, additional stops at Calais and Lille and connections to the future to southern France, Germany and beyond. For the first time in 150 years, a British regional station will be able to boast, like hundreds of stations in Switzerland or Belgium, access to mighty express trains carrying their way to distant foreign ports.

Ashford should rejoice in being put on the railway map. Its £100 million station is a confident assertion of a future that will bring some two million passengers a year to this new interchange. Nick Derbyshire, the architect responsible for the inspired reconstruction of Liverpool Street, has produced next century's version of the soaring public architecture that defined the Victorians a century ago. In doing so, he has added Ashford to a list of towns spawned and

enriched by the railways: Crewe, Swindon and York in Britain, Chicago in America and Novosibirsk in Siberia, a mere village until the builders of the Trans-Siberian camped on the banks of the mighty Ob while they pondered the engineering challenge.

Ashford will perhaps never become Leipzig, which long boasted that it was Europe's biggest station. With 26 platforms, it once offered connections to every part of Europe, and survived both allied bombs and East German bankruptcy — though for 40 years its echoing halls were eerily empty, isolated behind the Iron Curtain. Now that trains again flow uninterrupted from west to east, Leipzig, to its chagrin, is to lose two platforms and its pre-eminence to Frankfurt.

Ashford, however, has come to railway fame in a new age of a new train. It inherits the glamour — the fur, the hissing, the anguished partings — that brought all human emotion to the railway station and left Anna Karenina and Brief Encounter indelibly wreathed in steam. There will be romance, tears and a touch of the exotic on Ashford's platforms too, though free of grimy nostalgia. From today the little Kent town will be the doorway to a continent of adventure.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

### Moral and practical objections to Masari expulsion

From Sir Horace Phillips

Sir, In discussion of the Masari affair (leading article, January 5; letters, January 6) two related aspects seem to have been neglected: arms sales to certain governments, and the possibility of those governments' eventual downfall.

During the latter years of my diplomatic career (1947-77) and later, the Government made arms exports (leaving aside the defence sales) the leading commercial activity of certain of our embassies. Commenting on the Scott inquiry you observed that "Lady Thatcher was known to be keen on boosting [these] and not to be too choosy about their destination" (leading article, December 9, 1993). The feeling was that if Britain adopted a moral stance, other exporters would exploit the gap. Competitive cynicism crept into government policy. Members of Parliament were given no opportunity to argue whether this boost to British exports should offset any moral qualms.

I could understand the domestic political advantages: jobs and export earnings. But I deplored the seemingly indiscriminate spread of these exports. If they helped Britain, that was never mind what kind of dictatorial regime the purchasers might be. And the more dictatorial, it seemed, the more profitable the exports: Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia.

But leave aside the moral aspect. History shows that no people will tolerate dictatorship indefinitely. And when such a regime is eventually brought down the people are all too ready to allege that it was supported in its rule by arms bought from foreign powers. Whatever commercial or other advantages the latter may have had in the country as a result, these disappear with the fallen regime.

Khomeini's Iran demonstrated this all too vividly. It is a cynical arms-supplying government that shuts its eyes to that long-term danger, besides baulking the short-term moral issue, in order to make a quick profit.

Yours faithfully,  
HORACE PHILLIPS,  
34a Sheridan Road, SW19,  
January 6.

From the Leader of the Muslim Parliament of Great Britain

Sir, In 1978, David Owen, then Foreign Secretary, defended British support for the Shah of Iran (report, October 23, 1978) in strikingly similar terms to those used by Miss Ann Widdecombe, the Home Office Minister, when she was justifying the decision to deport Dr Muhammad al-Masari, head of the Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights (CDLR) in Saudi Arabia.

The fact is that the fall of the Shah in 1979 did not lead to widespread redundancies in Britain, or the loss of lucrative trade with Iran, especially in defence equipment, as had been feared. The Saudis, too, will continue to buy British if the product and price is right, and if the backhanders are generous, whatever they may say now. But the British Government cannot afford to overlook the unpopularity of the Saudi regime or offend those who will almost certainly form that country's next government.

It is not true that the anti-Saudi sentiment has been brought to Britain by the arrival here of the CDLR and Dr Masari. Fewer than 100 of the 1,000 mosques in Britain are Saudi-financed and controlled. The rest have long been politicised and actively anti-Saudi. London is already a major centre of the global Islamic movement and this will remain the case with or without Dr Masari. The Islamic

movement in Britain may well be strengthened by his deportation, while the work of the CDLR will be continued by others.

The British Government must take a broad view of the changes that are poised to sweep through the Muslim world. Cultivating friends for the future is as important as keeping present friends mollified.

Yours faithfully,  
KALIM SIDDIQUI, Leader,  
Muslim Parliament of Great Britain,  
109 Fulham Palace Road, W6.

From Mr Tony Purton

Sir, If, as the report in your earlier editions today suggests, Dominica's kind offer of asylum for Muhammad al-Masari is connected with a significant increase of overseas aid to the island, has the Government once again exceeded its powers under the Overseas Development and Co-operation Act 1980 by linking British aid with British arms sales? The Pergau Dam affair seems to have been forgotten.

Yours faithfully,  
TONY PURTON,  
48 Kent Avenue, Ealing, W13,  
January 6.

From Mr Edward Taylor

Sir, Tony Banks states that Saudi Arabia has "a very nasty and unpleasant regime" (report, January 5). Is this the official opinion of the Labour Party? If it is, and if the party wins the next election, then we might as well forget about any future co-operation, commercial or political, with the friendly Arab states, particularly those within the Gulf Co-operation Council.

Yours faithfully,  
EDWARD TAYLOR,  
Pentrecreithon, Rhayader, Powys,  
January 6.

bers a real personal stake, whilst at the same time drawing on the collective strength of a national insurance model.

I would stress that at this stage Labour has not reached any specific conclusions in its review of welfare policy, but we do believe that there are a number of lessons we can learn from best practice elsewhere. We will not, however, be looking to either the Adam Smith Institute or this privatising Government for advice.

Yours sincerely,  
CHRIS SMITH,  
Shadow Secretary of State  
for Social Security,  
House of Commons,  
January 5.

### Labour and welfare

From the Shadow Secretary of State for Social Security

Sir, Labour is indeed looking at a number of different options for welfare reform, for improving the security offered to people in their old age, and at reducing the overall DSS budget — but contrary to the suggestion in your report ("Labour ponders welfare sell-off", January 5) we are by no means considering "privatising" the welfare budget.

Indeed, the Singaporean model, which I am flying out to see at first hand next week, is a collective Government scheme, not a private one. It does however offer individual mem-

### Vegetative state

From Professor J. Grimley Evans

Sir, I fear your report, "Woman recovers after five years in vegetative state" (January 4), may have given a rather incomplete picture of the fate of the young lady reported in this week's *New England Journal of Medicine*.

Although it speaks of "recovery", the paper it quotes speaks only of "improvement". At the time of discharge from hospital the patient was "wheel-chair-bound and totally dependent for all care".

We are not told what burdens her family now bear or what their feelings are about this success of modern American medicine.

Yours sincerely,  
J. GRIMLEY EVANS,  
Department of Clinical Geratology,  
The Radcliffe Infirmary,  
Oxford OX2 6HE,  
January 4.

### Pomp and Pompey

From Mr John Crookshank

Sir, Marcus Binney's imaginative piece about Portsmouth's naval heritage ("The Navy and all its Pompey", Arts, January 3) opens up exciting, practical prospects which are encouraging for those who know and love the rather ramshackle old port city.

There is even more to see than Mr Binney mentions: HMS Victory, of course, and the hull and artefacts of the *Mary Rose*, and Britain's first ironclad warship, *Warrior*. There are the Palmerston ports dotting the Spithead approach to the harbour and Portsmouth Castle at its head.

The best way to see all this would be

### Gurkha stigma

From Professor Peter Rowe

Sir, Sir Michael Scott (letter, December 30; see also letter, January 5) is right to draw attention to the inaccuracy of describing the Gurkhas as mercenaries.

The Gurkhas serving with the British Army are a part of it. Their inclusion in the armed forces of a State ensures that during an armed conflict they will not come within the definition of a mercenary under Article 47 of the 1977 Additional Protocol 1 to the Geneva Conventions 1949.

The Government has indicated its intention to ratify the 1977 protocol and, in preparation, Parliament has passed the Geneva Conventions (Amendment) Act 1995.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER ROWE,  
Lancaster University,  
Department of Law,  
Lancaster, LA1 4YN.

by boat. You could nose into the creeks on the Gosport side, visiting the Submarine Museum, the Victorian ports and the military establishments, and you could sail into and around the dockyard. Boat trips would cause fewer problems for the "Navy in being" than buses within the dockyard.

Mr Binney reports that Gunwharf, next to the harbour railway station, is billed as a possible new home for the Royal Yacht *Britannia*. Were that to happen, this would be the obvious place to start the harbour tours.

Yours sincerely,  
JOHN CROOKSHANK,  
Ivy House, North Street,  
Westbourne, Emsworth, Hampshire.

### Rural poverty

From the President of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors

Sir, Libby Purves is right that there are parallels between urban and rural poverty ("Not so very pastoral", January 2). Rural poverty may be less visible, but it is every bit as soul-destroying.

The answers to reversing the process of rural decay are most likely to be found in those areas which have achieved considerable growth in employment. That growth has come overwhelmingly in the leisure, distribution and small-scale manufacturing sectors. It has been made possible by improved communications and technology, growth in tourism and the desire to relocate businesses in a more attractive environment.

The coming together of all the factors critical to success seldom happens by chance. The development of tour-

### Balance of benefit in recycling paper

From Dr Georgina Green

Sir, The points made by Dr Lyndhurst Collins of Edinburgh University on paper recycling (report, January 4) must be balanced by a fuller consideration of the issues related to forestry and paper consumption.

Predictions by the UN's Food and Agricultural Organisation and others show that the world demand for wood will almost double by the year 2010. Even given a huge expansion in the area under forest, a decrease in demand for new wood is essential if global forest production is to be managed on a sustainable basis. Recycling is an essential part of the strategy to achieve this decrease, but it must be accompanied by a reduction in overall consumption of forest products.

An increase in the global forest estate can help meet the growing demand for wood, but forests should not be regarded merely as timber-producing factories. A key objective of multi-purpose forests is to manage them for a range of benefits — biodiversity conservation, recreation, cultural heritage, soil preservation and climate amelioration — as well as for wood production.

Planting new trees will help absorb CO<sub>2</sub>, but turning these trees into paper that is used once and then disposed of results in the CO<sub>2</sub> being released into the atmosphere again. The carbon in the biomass in old-growth forests means that they are in fact better as carbon stores. For this reason, combating climate change through forests should emphasise natural forest conservation, not the expansion of plantations for pulp production.

The problem of transporting waste over great distances from collection point to recycling plant simply reflects the lack of development of industries and markets to use the waste locally. Producing paper from local recycled material requires less energy and is less polluting than using new trees.

Studies have shown that more energy is saved by recycling paper than is generated by its incineration, and that recycling has greater economic, social and environmental benefits than incineration.

Recycling is a green option. Readers are urged to think of the three Rs: reduce, re-use, recycle. This includes continuing to recycle their copies of *The Times*.

Yours etc,  
GEORGINA GREEN  
(Forest Campaigner),  
Friends of the Earth,  
26-28 Underwood Street, NI,  
January 4.

From the Director of the British Newspaper Manufacturers' Association

Sir, Dr Collins is wrong to say that the virtues of recycling paper "had not been based on sound scientific evidence" and that "paper waste would often be better burnt as fuel than recycled".

A study which we commissioned last year by Professor David Pearce of University College London and other experts concluded overwhelmingly that recycling paper was environmentally and economically preferable to incineration. Recycling provides a value-added benefit to society while incineration imposes a net cost.

Recycling does not present a threat to growing trees, as Dr Collins suggests. Worldwide demand for wood is growing and while this is so, trees will continue to be planted. Paper cannot be recycled indefinitely, so there will always be demand for virgin fibre.

Nor has the paper and pulp industry built recycling plants because environmentalists have "pinned them to the wall". The £250 million recycled-paper mill at Aylesford Newsprint in Kent will add £90 million a year to the UK balance of payments. Other mills too are investing heavily in plant, equipment and jobs because waste paper is far more abundant in the UK than virgin fibre.

The efforts of those who recycle their paper to make an environmental and economic contribution should not be undermined by bold claims which might grab a headline yet appear to be unsubstantiated.

Yours sincerely,  
BRYAN C. BATEMAN,  
Director,  
British Newspaper Manufacturers' Association,  
Papermakers' House,  
Rivenhall Road, Swindon, Wiltshire,  
January 5.

### Lines of inquiry

From Mr Ben Olds

Sir, Congratulations to Dr Daniel Döring on his research findings that the equity in one's house determines one's lifespan (report, January 5). He may be interested to learn that by not moving for many years I have added over two years to my own.

There must be other worthwhile subjects for Dr Döring's research. Is lifespan related to living in the inner city estates or rural suburbs, to profession, building labourer and clergyman for example, nights spent in hotels per year (by star category)? These and many other burning questions demand his urgent attention.

Yours faithfully,  
BEN OLDS,  
63 Bramcote Avenue,  
Chilwell, Nottingham,  
January 5.

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Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

مكتبة الأمل











Manager of the month for December scoops £500 without need for transfer system

Garfoot benefits from victory of forgotten heroes

In football, as in everything in life, you sometimes need a little luck. Until now, luck had been thin on the ground for Robert Garfoot. He has never won any competition, so the realisation that he was the Interactive Team Football (ITF) manager of the month for December — and the winner of £500 — has started his 1996 off on an unexpected high note.

Mr Garfoot had forgotten all about his team in the rush leading up to Christmas, although as a keen Liverpool supporter he had kept an eye on the mighty Red Machine as it relaunches its Premiership challenge. But, unbeknown to him, his ITF team were racking up 121 points during December.

The team is headed by Robbie Fowler, of Liverpool. "He's my star man," Mr Garfoot said. "He's been knocking them in left, right and centre and he's been great for me."

He was surprised, however, that the team as a whole had done so well. "I've got some players in there from QPR and Southampton and those teams haven't been doing that well. But I have got the best of their players — guys like Impey and Gallen — and their individual performances are maybe better than their team's showing."

Mr Garfoot's full squad is: manager: Clarke (Nottingham Forest); Southall (Everton); Jones (Liverpool); Campbell (Tottenham Hotspur); Monkou (Southampton); Unsworth (Everton); Batty (Blackburn Rovers); Sherwood (Blackburn Rovers); Bart-Williams (Nottingham Forest); Impey (Queens Park Rangers); Fowler (Liverpool); Gallen (Queens Park Rangers).

A taste of victory has renewed Mr Garfoot's enthusiasm and he is now determined



IN ASSOCIATION WITH



to study the form and venture into the transfer market for the first time. And he knows where he will spend his money, especially the winner's cheque. "I'm looking to start my own catering business here in Lincoln and the £500 will be going towards that."

Whether you are new to the transfer system, like Mr Garfoot, or an old hand, you can use it to improve your fortunes. The ITF system al-

lows you to change up to two players each week. You must replace the outgoing player with one from the same category (ie, a full back with a full back) and keep within your £35 million budget.

The ITF transfer system also allows you to adjust your team if one of your players is actually transferred out of the FA Cup Premiership. He would then no longer be eligible for ITF and would have to be replaced.

You can make transfers only by telephone. Using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a \* and a hash key are Touch-tone), call the 0891 333 331 line during the times given. Calls will be charged at 39 pence per minute cheap rate, 49 pence per minute at other times. If you are calling from the Republic of Ireland, you must call 004 499 020 063 and you will be charged 58 pence per minute at all times.

You may make up to two transfers a week. A player transferred out of your team must be replaced by a player from the same category — for example, a full back for a full back — so that the formation of a goalkeeper, two full backs, two central defenders, four midfield players, two strikers and a manager is maintained.

If you are lagging behind the leading team selectors, the transfer system will be an appealing option to you in the chase for the £50,000 prize or the monthly £500 prizes.

With ITF, not only are you pitting your selectorial skills against other readers of *The Times*, you are also matching your wits against those in the know. With the support of the Professional Footballers' Association, Premiership players have entered sides of their own, and Darren Peacock, of Newcastle United, gives his selection on the opposite page. Like him, you may spend £10 million on Alan Shearer — but will he do better than cheaper alternatives?

All matches in the Premiership and those in the FA Cup involving Premiership clubs count and your players and manager win and lose you points. With Goals Gods the new leaders of the competition, is it time for you to delve into the transfer market?

□ All transfer queries regarding Interactive Team Football should be directed to 0171 757 7016. Other inquiries can be made on 01582 488 122.



Les Ferdinand, left, scored the equalising goal for Newcastle against Chelsea on Sunday. Is he a wise choice in the IT at £8 million?

HOW THE SCORING SYSTEM WORKS IN ITF

All FA Cup Premiership and FA Cup matches in the 1995-96 season count for points. Every goal and penalty counts.

POINTS SCORED			
Goalkeeper	4pts	Striker	
Keeps clean sheet*	3pts	Scores goal	2pts
Full back/Central defender	3pts	All players	1pt
Keeps clean sheet*	3pts	Appearance†	1pt
Midfield player	3pts	Manager	3pts
Keeps clean sheet*	1pt	Team wins	3pts
Scores goal	2pts	Team draws	1pt

POINTS DEDUCTED			
Goalkeeper	2pts	Booked	1pt
Concedes goal	2pts	Concedes penalty	1pt
Full back/Central defender	1pt	Misses penalty	1pt
Concedes goal	1pt	Scores own goal	1pt
All players	3pts	Manager	1pt
Sent off	3pts	Team losses	1pt

\* must have played for 75 minutes in the match  
† must have played for 45 minutes in the match

HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER IN ITF

Call 0891 333 331

\*Calls cost (per minute) 39p cheap rate, 49p other times. Rep: 58p

If calling from the Republic of Ireland, call 004 499 020 063. You can make transfers only by telephone using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a \* and a hash key are Touch-tone). You will need your ten-digit selector's PIN, which must be typed in and not spoken. Follow the simple instructions and use the players' five-digit codes.

The line is open from 6pm on Tuesday until 11pm on Saturday; from 8pm on Sunday to 11pm on Sunday and from 8pm on Sunday until 3pm on Monday. If there are sidekick matches, the line will also close at 3pm on the day of the match (or matches) and re-open the following day at 8pm. You may make up to (but no more than) two transfers a week. Each transfer is a separate transaction and you must sell a player before you can buy one.

A player transferred out of your team must be replaced by a player from the same category — for example a full back for a full back.

When purchasing a player you must ensure that the team value still falls within £35 million budget (even if your next transfer would rectify any overspending) and does not contain more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club.

Your new player only starts to score points for you when his transfer is registered. The score of the player transferred out is taken at the time of transfer; he then ceases to score for you.

Player out	Player code
Club	
Player in	
Club	

THE WEEK'S TRANSFERS IN ITF

Code	Player	IN	Club	Value
21304	D Steilnovic		Sheff Wed	£2.5m
31105	M Duberry		Chelsea	£2.5m
40508	M Ford		Leeds Utd	£1.0m
41209	A Clarke		Arsenal	£1.5m
51306	D Kovacevic		Sheff Wed	£1.5m
51708	R Ebdon		Man City	£2.5m
52005	N Baka		Bottom	2.5m
62002	C Todd		Bottom	£0.5m

Code	Player	OUT	Club	Value
21703	D Brightwell		Man City	£0.75m
31703	M Vorr		Man City	£1.0m
40504	D White		Leeds Utd	£1.5m
40907	S Osborne		QPR	£1.5m
42005	M Patterson		Bottom	£0.75m
52004	G Bull		Bottom	£0.75m
62001	R McFarland		Bottom	£0.50m

THE LEADING 250 SELECTORS IN INTERACTIVE TEAM FOOTBALL

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
1	Goals Gods 65	(Mr B Gohli)	386
2	Kevin's Kickers	(K James)	386
3	Teddy Five	(Mr B Bear)	386
4	Snort And Stubbs	(K Booth)	386
5	James Boys Six	(M J Jones)	381
6	Stevens Lions 2	(S Brewer)	349
7	Alberspitz	(G Shand)	347
8	Stevens Lions 5	(S Brewer)	344
9	Fargies Fury	(P Simpson)	344
10	Stevens Lions 7	(S Brewer)	343
11	Sharon's Buds	(Mr D Conroy)	343
12	Phyco And Smith	(K Booth)	342
13	Tommy Cockles XI	(Mr F Johnson)	341
14	Percy Progress	(M Persich)	340
15	Rosies Supers	(P Sutton)	339
16	Phyco TV	(T Vardy)	339
17	Shrew Voles	(J Nichol)	339
18	Kims Kickers	(H Brasher)	339
19	Jeonord 1860	(G Sutton)	338
20	The Young Guns	(S Murray)	338
21	Gutford Marching	(S Shepherd)	336
22	My Cat Baiter	(Mr M Harris)	333
23	Who Needs Mark	(Mr F Johnson)	333
24	Nigels Right Foot	(N Persich)	335
25	The Good Bad & Ugly	(Mr D Patel)	335
26	Stevens Lions 8	(K Booth)	334
27	Despays Dribblers	(S Brewer)	334
28	Marlin's 5	(P Philcox)	334
29	Firefly City	(T Martin)	334
30	Tyee Blue Noses	(I Harrison)	333
31	Jacobson FC	(Mr S Tye)	333
32	Falk Falk Rapstter	(Mr A P Jacobucci)	333
33	Jessie's Darlings 4	(C Woodward)	333
34	Perick Thistle	(Mr A Naldson)	333
35	The Woe One Too	(A Nelson)	332
36	Goal Diggers	(C Stacey)	332
37	Strangers	(R Bantam)	332
38	Russell 3	(Mr G Banks)	332
39	Stevens Lions 6	(D Shuter)	332
40	The Cake Eaters	(S Brewer)	331
41	Al's Alcazars	(Mr S Hughes)	331
42	Carling XI	(A Hancock)	331
43	Sunderland Stars	(P Parker)	331
44	Razor's Raiders	(K Brown)	330
45	Nervous FC	(R A Knowles)	330
46	Harrington Inter	(Mr J Donovan)	330
47	Foxton Rangers	(Mr D Lovell)	329
48	No Fear Utd	(J Liss)	329
49	Barrys Army	(M J Hughes)	329
50	Kissapou Five	(R Hancock)	328
51	Twilight United	(J P Barry)	328
52	Stevens Lions 1	(E J Gaby)	328
53	Scol Utd	(P C Dworth)	328
54	Formby Flyers	(S Brewer)	327
55	Transporter	(B Scollick)	326
56	Map 9	(A Norton)	326
57	Luton's Longshots	(A Harrison)	326
58	KP Fantasy Team 4	(P Prestley)	326
59	Saltbury United	(C Loxton)	326
60	Cameron Athan	(K R Patel)	325
61	Adams Man Or God 4	(Mr P J Darnes)	324
62	Poundswick Pupils	(Mr J R Reader)	324
63	Mean Machine	(R Pike)	324
64	Counting Eleven	(J Plaster)	324
65	They're Here	(Raminah Patel)	323
66	Mega Eleven	(B Evans)	323
		(Mr P Johnson)	323
		(T Becker)	323

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
106	Evans Men	(Mr A G W Whyte)	322
107	The Likely Lads	(Mr T Stabelford)	322
108	Bassett's Bouncers	(M Prestley)	322
109	Turners Earners	(D Bowdler)	322
110	Warren Warriors	(F Caldwell)	322
111	Dorby Rams	(Mrs E L Arrowood)	322
112	Gary Pearce	(Mr A F Winter)	321
113	Skyflights	(K Grogan)	321
114	Eggs N Ham	(Mrs G Keynes)	321
115	Overhill Rovers	(J Andrews)	321
116	OWHE	(Mr D Clarke)	321
117	Sky Blue Royals	(S Lazaros)	321
118	The UK Beavers	(Mr P Gregorini)	321
119	Melids Skill Monsters	(Mr P Gals)	320
120	Just For Fun	(M Prestley)	320
121	Glasso's Goers	(S Burn)	320
122	Orbital Brushes	(L M Jones)	320
123	No Sam Today	(K Hughes)	319
124	Pig In A Polo	(R Hughes)	319
125	Sky Blue Royals	(Mr A Gohli)	319
126	The UK Beavers	(P Turner)	319
127	Melids Skill Monsters	(J Parker)	319
128	Spurton Forest	(Mr M Raja)	319
129	Robbie's Army	(N A Woodroffe)	319
130	Gatto Nero FC	(C Speckman)	319
131	Monster Monster	(Mr P Johnson)	319
132	Don Shuter C	(Mr M Kirkwood)	319
133	Ramsden Raiders 2	(D Dunn)	319
134	Spurton Forest	(J Ward)	319
135	Rosa Rovers	(A Richardson)	319
136	Anti-Saints	(A Morris)	319
137	Rescue City	(Mr A Gohli)	319
138	Score A Bandle	(R Linton)	319
139	Taste Of Aberdeen	(S Lewis)	319
140	ES 10	(C Lave)	319
141	Good-Time Boys	(S O'Toole)	319
142	Alfa Tarta Army	(P M Evans)	319
143	Turners Earners 2	(K Booth)	319
144	Jap 11	(Mr M J Dyer)	319
145	Accrington Otter	(M Bywater)	319
146	Rempstone Rovers	(L Rappe)	319
147	Bloombury City	(J Weath)	319
148	I Love Esther	(A Matthews)	319
149	Lancers United	(Mr D F Richardson)	319
150	Alfata XI	(Mr M D Walter)	319
151	Langton Longshots	(Mr R Fiskington)	319
152	Swerve FC	(Mr D Donkison)	319
153	The Rampant Rams		
154	Gohli's Gods 73		
155	Madrid Knights		
156	Widlers Wanderers 1st		
157	Very Forward		
158	Hull Red Devils		
159	All Hallows		
160	Premier Choice		
161	All Stars		
162	S Express FC		
163	Royle's Rangers		
164	It's A Binge Game		
165	Dyer Straghts		
166	Tiles 'R' Us FC		
167	The Entertainers		
168	Rory's Rovers		
169	Armarch		
170	Doug's Desperados		
171	Wallers Crispes		
172	Alvane Hope		
173	Pillya Pirates		
174	Synthetic Down		

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
177	Everdale	(T Rudd)	310
178	Choppers Eleven	(Mr P Chanters)	310
179	County Pine A	(J Hunt)	309
180	Hobby One	(A Brown)	309
181	Garden FC	(K Wan)	309
182	Nippers	(K Hughes)	309
183	Readman Rockets	(P Readman)	309
184	Wannabee Stars	(A P Harris)	309
185	Chimbon Blues	(N Jones)	309
186	Master Side	(C Davenport)	309
187	Semir ITF	(Mr F Arnone)	309
188	Charles Kickers	(G Cluse)	309
189	Chumponia	(T Hibbs)	309
190	Adams Man Or God 1	(R Pike)	309
191	Supababy 3	(G O'Donnell)	309
192	Chipchase Rovers	(S Allen)	309
193	Moneybags United	(P Ebridge)	309
194	Fantasy Farmbook	(Mr G Cuzler)	309
195	The Premier Raiders	(Miss C Eke)	309
196	The Bunderers	(R J Smith)	309
197	Richies Rovers	(Mrs S Carter)	309
198	County Pine O	(R Lovell)	309
199	Herman	(J Hunt)	309
200	County Pine N	(T Sigsworth)	309
201	Your Stars	(A Clarke)	309
202	Not So Super Bob	(R Williams)	309
203	Tunde United	(Dr T Adotunji)	309
204	First Endowment	(Mr A Shelley)	309
205	Of Armstrongs Yew	(C Eke)	309
206	Mountain Eleven	(Mr D Ekin)	309
207	The Minde Filded	(R J Davenport)	309
208	No Hoppers	(P Hutchinson)	309
209	Roker Rovers	(S Harris)	309
210	Rueful Rabbits	(D Milbourn)	309
211	Finglen Flyers	(J Whately)	309
212	Chosen Men	(E Ronald)	309
213	Alan's All Stars	(J McCracken)	309
214	Street FC	(A Niblock)	309
215	The Solboys	(S Bartlett)	309
216	Eakmo Eleven	(D Hoskins)	309
217	Les Gagnants	(S Carroll)	309
218	Burst The Net	(P Crosby)	309
219	Wheres Botham	(A Heam)	309
220	Mars Mates 20	(Mr P Johnson)	309
221	Suez Brothers	(Mr M Hibz)	309
222	Fairleigh Vale	(Mr B Harwood)	309
223	Baker's Baggies	(E Lloyd)	309
224	Mark's Manroves	(S Baker)	309
225	Daniel James Utd	(M Kelly)	309
226	Andy's Athletic	(S Reynolds)	309
227	Henry Hills	(A R Howse)	309
228	Reds & Blues	(Mr T Thompson)	309
229	The Mainlows	(J Lloyd)	309
230	Petersham	(B Whitney)	309
231	Bull's Team	(J Peterson)	309
232	Fraser Dribblers	(S Ghanman)	309
233	Possibles	(G Ghanman)	309
234	Strike FC	(D Black)	309
235	Cro Chic Casuals	(A Koutsoudis)	309
236	Torres All Stars	(D F King)	309
237	Mighty Reds	(A Boyland)	309
238	C	(T Laves)	309
239	Blackpeters	(M Corlett)	309
240	Barking Hostlers	(W Gayle)	309
241	Death Or Glory	(A Davies)	309
242	The Mighty Dursan	(A T Davies)	309
243	J K's Dolphins	(Dr Hall)	309
244		(J F Kitchen)	309



The players' weekly and overall scores and their values if you are considering the transfer option

Code	Name	Team	Pos	Age	Value	Wk	Div
0101	T Flowers	Blackburn Rovers	5.00	+10	-6		
0102	B Mims	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	0	-1		
0201	P Schmeichel	Manchester United	5.00	-3	-1		
0301	M Crossley	Nottingham Forest	2.50	-8	-22		
0401	D James	Liverpool	1.00	0	0		
0402	A Warner	Liverpool	3.50	+2	+17		
0501	J Lukic	Leeds United	0.25	0	0		
0502	M Beeny	Leeds United	3.00	+2	+3		
0601	P Smith	Newcastle United	3.00	+4	+4		
0602	M Hooper	Newcastle United	1.00	0	0		
0603	S Hisslop	Newcastle United	3.00	0	+4		
0701	I Walker	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	-2	0		
0702	E Thorstvedt	Tottenham Hotspur	1.00	0	0		
0801	A Roberts	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	0	-7		
0802	S Dykstra	Queens Park Rangers	1.00	0	0		
0803	J Sommer	Queens Park Rangers	1.00	+2	-20		
0901	H Segers	Wimbledon	1.50	-5	-7		
0902	N Sullivan	Wimbledon	0.75	-1	-1		
0903	P Head	Wimbledon	1.50	0	-38		
1001	B Grobbelaar	Southampton	1.50	0	0		
1002	D Beasant	Southampton	0.75	+4	-8		
1101	D Kharine	Chelsea	2.50	-2	+8		
1102	K Hitchcock	Chelsea	1.00	0	0		
1201	D Seaman	Arsenal	5.00	-4	+21		
1202	V Bartram	Arsenal	0.50	0	0		
1301	K Pressman	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	-8	-32		
1302	C Woods	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	0		
1401	L Mladkovic	West Ham United	2.50	+5	-10		
1402	L Sealey	West Ham United	0.50	0	0		
1501	N Southall	Everton	2.50	-6	+7		
1502	J Keaton	Everton	0.75	0	0		
1601	S Ogrizovic	Coventry City	1.50	-2	-19		
1602	J Gould	Coventry City	0.75	0	0		
1603	J Folan	Coventry City	1.50	0	-35		
1701	A Coton	Manchester City	2.50	0	0		
1702	A Dibble	Manchester City	2.50	0	0		
1703	E Emmel	Manchester City	2.00	+4	-12		
1801	M Bosnich	Aston Villa	2.50	+10	+24		
1802	N Spink	Aston Villa	1.00	0	-1		
1901	A Miller	Middlesbrough	2.00	0	+3		
1902	G Walsh	Middlesbrough	0.75	-4	+3		
2001	K Branagan	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	-2	-59		
2002	A Davison	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	0	0		



Peacock's position in Newcastle's defence has given him the chance to gauge Premiership strikers at close quarters

## Peacock's proud display

HALFWAY through the season and I am fourth in the players' table. am I? That is not bad. Still, there is a long way to go: it is a marathon not a sprint. I can come out with all the clichés, just like a typical manager.

My team is called MBL's, although I have no idea why. I picked the side pre-season and I cannot remember what the name means. It is not the team I would like it is the team I could afford. I started with Alan Shearer who cost me £10 million, but he is always worth the money for the number of goals he scores. Then I picked the rest of the team down the middle of the field — Bosnich in goal and the two centre halves — but the choices all came down to money. Once the key players were in position, I pulled the rest out of a hat.

If I could change the rules, I would have picked most of the Newcastle team, but we are not allowed to pick players from our own club, which prevents that idea. Still, we have to pick our own manager and, after Stearner, Kevin Keegan is my top points scorer, so I cannot complain there.

The midfield players have done quite well for me, although Andy Sinton has not played much, so has not got me that many points. I knew Gary McAllister would score a few goals: he gets a few from free kicks and is also a penalty-taker

**Darren Peacock, a central defender for Newcastle United, picks his ITF team**

chose David Bardsley and Clive Wilson — I know them as players and I know what they can do.

Mark Bosnich was a good selection. Aston Villa have one of the best defensive records in the FA Carling Premiership, which means Bosnich has kept quite a few clean sheets this season — and that means more points for me.

Paul McGrath is a great defender, so he was a good choice for my team. How old is he now? 45? Well, maybe not quite, but he still keeps going and going. I think he has been injured, but he will be back — he always is. These days he does not bother so much with training, he turns out only for the games, but he is still a great player. I hope I am still going at his age.

By the time I came to pick my second striker, I was looking for someone inexpensive. It was a toss-up who to choose — there are not many inexpensive players around — but I went for Mixu Paatelainen. With Bolton's record, he is not going to win me the league, but then again he has earned a few points and he cost only £750,000, so it is not that bad. The transfer market has not tempted me yet. To be honest, I picked the team and left them to get on with it. But so far they have not done too badly for me. I am 37 points behind Jan Molby at the top, so I hope that I can close the gap.

### PEACOCK'S TEAM

Goalkeeper:	M Bosnich	(Aston Villa)	£2.5m
Full backs:	C Wilson	(Tottenham)	£2.5m
	D Bardsley	(Aston Villa)	£2.0m
Centre backs:	P McGrath	(Aston Villa)	£1.5m
	D Walker	(Sheff Wed)	£2.5m
Midfielders:	A Impey	(QPR)	£1.5m
	G McAllister	(Leeds Utd)	£4.0m
	D Baily	(Blackburn)	£1.5m
Strikers:	A Sinton	(Sheff Wed)	£2.0m
	A Shearer	(Blackburn)	£10.0m
Manager:	K Keegan	(Newcastle)	£4.0m

Code	Name	Team	Pos	Age	Value	Wk	Div
0101	H Berg	Blackburn Rovers	3.50	+8	+15		
0102	G La Saux	Blackburn Rovers	4.50	0	+3		
0103	J Kenna	Blackburn Rovers	3.50	+8	+24		
0201	D Irwin	Manchester United	4.50	-2	+10		
0202	P Parker	Manchester United	2.50	-3	0		
0203	G Neville	Manchester United	2.50	-4	-3		
0204	P Neville	Manchester United	0.75	-3	+8		
0301	S Pearce	Ntingham Forest	4.50	0	+18		
0302	D Lytle	Ntingham Forest	3.00	-3	+8		
0303	A Hesland	Ntingham Forest	1.00	-3	-12		
0401	R Jones	Liverpool	3.00	0	+23		
0402	S Bjornneby	Liverpool	3.00	0	+4		
0403	S Harrison	Liverpool	0.75	+2	+26		
0501	T Dorogi	Lids United	3.50	-1	+7		
0502	G Kelly	Lids United	3.00	+2	+11		
0503	N Worthington	Lids United	1.50	+3	+2		
0601	J Beresford	Iwcastle United	3.00	0	+12		
0602	M Hottinger	Iwcastle United	3.00	0	0		
0603	W Barton	Iwcastle United	3.00	+3	+21		
0701	D Austin	Ittenham Hotspur	2.50	-1	+6		
0702	J Edinburg	Ittenham Hotspur	1.50	-1	-4		
0703	S Campbell	Ittenham Hotspur	1.50	+3	+22		
0704	D Kerslake	Ittenham Hotspur	1.00	0	0		
0705	C Wilson	Ittenham Hotspur	2.50	0	+7		
0801	D Bardsley	Ittenham Hotspur	2.00	-1	-5		
0802	R Brevett	Ittenham Hotspur	1.50	0	-3		
0803	N Zelic	Ittenham Hotspur	2.50	0	-3		
0901	A Kimble	Ittenham Hotspur	2.50	-2	-5		
0902	G Elkins	Ittenham Hotspur	1.50	0	-8		
0903	K Cunningham	Ittenham Hotspur	1.50	-2	-14		
0904	R Joseph	Ittenham Hotspur	0.75	0	0		
1001	J Dodd	Ittenham Hotspur	1.50	+4	+16		
1002	F Benali	Ittenham Hotspur	1.00	-1	-4		
1003	S Charlton	Ittenham Hotspur	1.00	+5	+10		
1101	S Clarke	Ittenham Hotspur	1.50	-1	+10		
1102	S Minto	Ittenham Hotspur	1.50	0	+3		
1103	G Hall	Ittenham Hotspur	0.50	0	+9		
1104	A Myers	Ittenham Hotspur	0.50	0	+16		
1105	T Phelan	Ittenham Hotspur	1.50	0	0		
1106	D Petrescu	Ittenham Hotspur	2.50	+1	+18		
1201	L Dixon	Ittenham Hotspur	3.00	-1	+31		
1202	N Winterburn	Ittenham Hotspur	3.00	-2	+28		
1203	S Morrow	Ittenham Hotspur	1.50	0	0		
1301	N Nolan	Ittenham Hotspur	2.50	-3	-2		
1303	P Atherton	Ittenham Hotspur	2.50	-2	-6		
1401	J Dicks	Ittenham Hotspur	3.50	+3	+3		
1402	T Breacker	Ittenham Hotspur	3.00	0	-12		
1403	K Brown	Ittenham Hotspur	0.75	0	0		
1404	K Rowland	Ittenham Hotspur	0.75	0	+9		
1501	G Ablett	Ittenham Hotspur	2.50	+2	+12		
1502	E Barrett	Ittenham Hotspur	2.50	0	+4		
1503	M Jackson	Ittenham Hotspur	1.50	0	-2		
1504	P Holmes	Ittenham Hotspur	1.50	0	0		
1601	D Burrows	Ittenham Hotspur	1.00	+3	-2		
1602	A Pickering	Ittenham Hotspur	0.75	0	0		
1603	S Morgan	Ittenham Hotspur	0.75	0	-19		
1604	M Hall	Ittenham Hotspur	1.50	0	-19		
1702	R Edgill	Ittenham Hotspur	1.50	0	-1		
1703	D Brightwell	Ittenham Hotspur	0.75	0	0		
1704	J Foster	Ittenham Hotspur	0.75	0	-1		
1801	G Charles	Ittenham Hotspur	2.50	+8	+30		
1802	S Staunton	Ittenham Hotspur	4.50	0	+3		
1803	A Wright	Ittenham Hotspur	2.50	+11	+32		
1804	P King	Ittenham Hotspur	0.50	0	0		
1805	B Small	Ittenham Hotspur	0.50	0	0		
1901	C Blackmore	Ittenham Hotspur	0.75	0	0		
1902	N Cox	Ittenham Hotspur	1.00	-1	+22		
1903	C Morris	Ittenham Hotspur	0.75	0	+24		
1904	C Fleming	Ittenham Hotspur	0.50	-1	-6		
2001	G Bergsson	Ittenham Hotspur	0.50	0	-16		
2002	S Green	Ittenham Hotspur	0.25	-1	-12		
2003	J Phillips	Ittenham Hotspur	0.75	-1	-17		
2004	A Todd	Ittenham Hotspur	0.75	-1	-6		
2005	S McAness	Ittenham Hotspur	0.50	0	+1		

Code	Name	Team	Pos	Age	Value	Wk	Div
3101	C Hendry	Blackburn Rovers	4.50	+4	+19		
3102	I Pearce	Blackburn Rovers	3.50	0	+3		
3103	N Markar	Blackburn Rovers	0.50	-4	+3		
3104	A Reed	Blackburn Rovers	0.75	0	0		
3105	C Coleman	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	+8	+11		
3201	S Bruce	Manchester United	4.50	-1	+9		
3202	G Pallister	Manchester United	4.50	-1	+18		
3203	D May	Manchester United	1.50	0	-1		
3301	C Cooper	Nottingham Forest	3.50	-4	+3		
3302	S Chettle	Nottingham Forest	3.00	-3	+3		
3401	P Babo	Liverpool	3.50	0	+21		
3402	N Ruddock	Liverpool	3.50	+3	+6		
3403	J Sealey	Liverpool	1.00	+1	+21		
3404	M Wright	Liverpool	0.75	0	+4		
3501	D Matted	Liverpool	3.50	-1	+11		
3502	C Palmer	Liverpool	3.00	+3	+9		
3503	J Pemberton	Liverpool	1.50	0	-1		
3504	P Beesley	Liverpool	1.00	0	+1		
3505	R Johnson	Liverpool	1.50	+2	+4		
3601	P Albert	Newcastle United	4.00	+4	+8		
3602	S Howe	Newcastle United	3.00	+3	+24		
3603	D Peacock	Newcastle United	3.00	+4	+22		
3701	G Mabbitt	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	0	+18		
3702	C Caldwell	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	0	+13		
3703	S Nethcott	Tottenham Hotspur	0.75	-1	-4		
3704	K Scott	Tottenham Hotspur	0.75	0	0		

30705	J Cundy	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0	0
30801	D Maddix	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	0	-8
30802	S Yates	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	0	-5
30803	A McDonald	Queens Park Rangers	2.00	+4	+6
30804	K Reedy	Queens Park Rangers	0.75	0	-6
30805	A Reeves	Wimbledon	2.50	-2	-4
30806	A Thorn	Wimbledon	0.75	0	-4
30807	S Fitzgerald	Wimbledon	0.75	0	-8
30808	C Perry	Wimbledon	1.00	-2	-18
30809	A Pearce	Wimbledon	2.50	0	-2
31001	K Monks	Southampton	1.50	+4	+9
31002	A Neilson	Southampton	1.50	+4	+10
31003	R Hall	Southampton	1.50	0	+4
31101	E Johnson	Chelsea	1.50	0	+14
31102	J Kjeldberg	Chelsea	1.50	0	0
31103	F Sinclair	Chelsea	2.00	0	+3
31104	D Lee	Chelsea	0.75	0	+16
31201	T Adams	Arsenal	4.50	-2	+28
31202	S Bould	Arsenal	3.00	-1	+23
31203	M Keown	Arsenal	1.50	-2	+18
31204	A Lush	Arsenal	1.50	0	-4
31301	D Walker	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	-2	-2
31401	S Potts	West Ham United	2.50	+3	+8
31402	M Ripper	West Ham United	2.50	+3	+6
31403	A Martin	West Ham United	1.00	0	+21
31404	A Whitbread	West Ham United	0.50	0	0
31501	D Unsworth	Everton	2.50	-2	+21
31502	D Watson	Everton	2.50	-3	+12
31503	C Short	Everton	2.50	0	-7
31601	D Rennie	Coventry City	0.75	0	-4
31602	D Buxton	Coventry City	0.75	-4	0
31603	B Borrows	Coventry City	1.50	0	-9
31604	R Shaw	Coventry City	1.50	0	-15
31701	K Curle	Manchester City	1.50	+4	+5
31702	A Kermaghan	Manchester City	1.00	0	-1
31703	M Monk	Manchester City	1.00	0	0
31704	K Symons	Manchester City	1.50	+4	+8
31801	U Eholuo	Aston Villa	2.50	+8	+28
31802	P McGrath	Aston Villa	1.50	0	+11
31804	C Tiller	Aston Villa	0.75	0	0
31901	N Pearson	Middlesbrough	0.75	+1	+6
31902	M Wilson	Middlesbrough	0.75	-1	+25
31903	P Wicks	Middlesbrough	0.75	0	-9
32004	D Whyte	Middlesbrough	0.75	0	+14
32001	A Stubbs	Bolton Wanderers	1.50	+1	0
32002	C Falcough	Bolton Wanderers	1.50	+4	+6
32003	S Coleman	Bolton Wanderers	0.75	0	0
32004	G Taggart	Bolton Wanderers	1.50	+3	-9
32005	G Strang	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	0	0



